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Inside the school ditching GCSEs

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England see off Japan — eventually

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Brand faces more claims

● Other women come forward after sex allegations ● BBC launches investigation into comedian ● Met Police begin inquiries

Charlotte Wace
Rosamund Urwin
Media Editor, The Sunday Times
Paul Morgan-Bentley, Mario Ledwith

More women have come forward with allegations about their treatment by Russell Brand after the entertainment industry was rocked by accusations of rape and sexual assault against the actor and former BBC presenter.

The Times and Sunday Times have been contacted by several women since Saturday with claims about Brand's behaviour since the early 2000s.

The new allegations, which have not been investigated and will now be rigorously checked, come after four women, including one who was 16, alleged that they were sexually assaulted by Brand during the height of his fame between 2006 and 2013.

In a joint investigation by The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4's *Dispatches*, others also made a range of accusations about Brand's controlling, abusive and predatory behaviour.

Brand has denied the allegations and said his relationships have all been consensual.

Last night one of the alleged victims, who is being referred to as Nadia and claims that Brand raped her in 2012 at his Los Angeles home, told of her relief that her and other women's allegations were being heard.

"He cannot hurt me any more and hopefully he will not hurt anybody else," she said, while encouraging women to speak out if they felt strong enough. "I'm super-proud of all the women who have come forward. I know how hard it is — thinking 'I'm the only one' and 'Who is going to believe me'. It was all very hard to read and to watch but I think it's very necessary — because he needs to be stopped."

Other developments:

● The Metropolitan Police said it had begun inquiries into Brand's alleged mistreatment of women and called on any victims to speak to officers.

● The BBC announced its own investigation amid new claims that Brand used the broadcaster's car service to pick up a 16-year-old girl from school so that she could visit him at his home.

● Channel 4 also began an investigation into its former presenter, and a TV production company started an "urgent internal investigation", saying it would "co-operate with any requests for information from broadcast partners and external agencies". Channel 4 removed Brand's content from its streaming service.

● A leading domestic abuse charity ended its ties with the comedian, saying that it was "deeply saddened and upset" to learn about the allegations.

● The literary agency Tavistock Wood said it had terminated all professional ties to Brand.

It was revealed this weekend that Brand had been accused of rape, sexual assaults and emotional abuse.

Nadia alleges that Brand raped her against a wall in his Los Angeles home in July 2012 and medical records show that she was treated at a rape crisis centre on the same day. Text messages show that after leaving his home she told Brand that she felt taken advantage of and wrote: "When a girl say[s] NO it means no." Brand replied saying he was "very sorry".

Last night Nadia said that she had spoken publicly because she cares deeply about women's safety. She told The Times: "I don't feel like a victim now, I feel like a survivor — I'm glad I'm on the other side of it. I'm stronger."

Asked if she would encourage other women with allegations about Brand to

Continued on page 2

JOSHUA BRATT FOR THE TIMES



Russell Brand faces multiple inquiries and a backlash over his alleged behaviour. He said the relationships were consensual

Rape accuser says: 'I know the demon underneath'



Interview
Charlotte Wace

When Nadia began her treatment at a medical centre for victims of rape, she struggled to verbalise what had just happened to her.

"I literally couldn't say the word 'rape'," she reflects. "I couldn't believe that [could happen] to anyone I know, as silly as that was. But by the end of it, I was like, 'Oh my god. He raped me.'"

It was summer 2012 and her assailant, Nadia claims, was Russell Brand, who at that point was at the height of his fame and living in Los Angeles.

He had recently starred alongside Tom Cruise in the Hollywood blockbuster *Rock of Ages* and was preparing to host his own late-night chat show, *Brand X*, following the end of his brief marriage to Katy Perry, the pop star.

Nadia says that in the months after they first met at a party in the city, Brand invited her to his home and, when she arrived, he told her that "a friend" was already in the bedroom and that he wanted her to join them.

Nadia says she made it clear that she did not want a threesome. She says Brand pushed her up against a wall and raped her without using a condom.

Brand strenuously denied all the allegations this weekend and says that all his relationships have been consensual.

Concerned that she was "small and insignificant" compared to a celebrity, and scared of the implications for herself and her family, Nadia says she decided not to report the alleged attack to the police and told only a trusted handful of close friends and the medical team that treated her.

But over a decade later, after hearing that The Times and Sunday Times were investigating Brand's treatment of women during his career, she

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Today's highlights

7.35am **Rosamund Urwin**, media editor of The Sunday Times
8.05am **Ben Taylor**, editor of The Sunday Times
8.20am The historian **Tom Holland** talks about his growing suspicion that men are pre-occupied with the Roman Empire
2.05pm **Corinne Bailey Rae**, right, the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter
3.35pm **Rory Cellan-Jones** speaks to **Jane Garvey** and **Fi Glover** about his memoir



TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

Covid booster jabs rolled out

Millions of people in England can begin booking coronavirus booster jabs today as the NHS steps up its winter vaccinations. The scheme is starting sooner than planned in response to the new Pirola variant, which seems to be circulating in Britain. Page 8

Half of Britons in 20mph zones

Close to half of Britons live in places where 20mph limits are in force or are expected, campaigners said, as Wales introduced the limit in built-up areas. The scheme affected 7,700 miles of road and Conservatives said it was "anti-worker and anti-road". Page 17

Antarctic ice at record low

Sea-ice surrounding Antarctica is at its lowest level for September since records began. Satellite data shows that it covers an area almost 600,000 sq miles smaller than average for the time of year, though scientists are not sure why. Page 20

173 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia #FreeEvan



Migration 'risks future of EU'

Giorgia Meloni, the Italian prime minister, has said the future of the EU is at stake unless it can stop a surge in uncontrolled migration. She was joined on the island of Lampedusa by Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president. Page 32

Rental costs up 12% in a year

Residential rents across Britain are rising at their fastest pace on record as high interest rates shut would-be buyers out of the property market. Monthly rental costs are on average 12 per cent higher than they were last year, at over £1,300. Page 37

England victory over Japan

England moved to the brink of the rugby World Cup quarter-finals with a 34-12 victory that owed a debt to a bizarre "header" by Joe Marler to set up a key try for Courtney Lawes, who said "the ball was so greasy — it was tough". Page 66

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Benefits bill to rise by billions as older people claim for life

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Taxpayers face a £10 billion bill for rising numbers of people stuck on disability benefits for life.

More than half a million extra pensioners will claim disability benefits over the next decade after a rise in claims among working-age people in recent years, according to new analysis.

Most of those on such benefits at retirement age keep claiming until they die at an average cost of £70,000 each.

Ministers have been urged to spend money up front on treating back problems and mental health issues to avoid an ever-rising benefit bill. While the government has focused on back-to-work schemes to deal with the 2.6 million people aged 16 to 64 who are off due to long-term sickness, a report by the LCP consultancy warned that they were neglecting those stuck on other disability benefits until they die.

More than three million people claim personal independence payments, a benefit of between £26.90 and £101.75 a week, to compensate for the extra costs of disability whether or not they work.

It costs taxpayers about £22 billion a year currently and was introduced in part to reduce disability payments. It has failed on that front, with claimants increasing by a million over the past decade. That figure is set to rise by a further million after a surge in new claims since the pandemic. Unlike many other benefits it can be claimed beyond retirement age, and the LCP report warns that this will push up costs significantly unless action is taken.

"When you get a surge of working-age claims, which is what we've had, suddenly the open-ended nature of these claims becomes more significant," said Sir Steve Webb, a partner at LCP and former pensions minister.

"The political narrative is all about 'let's get them back to work', whereas the issue is if you don't do something preventative you've got an 11-year bill post-pension age. That is such a large amount that it brings in all sorts of preventative measures that may not be cheap but may still be good value." His report estimates that while people who have been claiming the benefit for less than two years had a 16 per cent chance of moving off it the following year, this fell steadily the longer they stayed on it.

Pensioners have a 3.6 per cent chance of recovering enough to come off the benefit each year. On average, someone claiming it at 66 will do so for another 11 years at a cost of £70,000, Webb estimated. One million pensioners claim the benefit at present and this is expected to reach 1.6 million by 2033. The corresponding cost to taxpayers would rise from £6 billion to £10.5 billion in real terms, the report said.

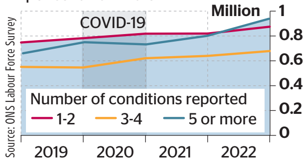
A government spokeswoman said: "We are investing up to £14.1 billion to improve health services and our major conditions strategy will look at the prevention and management of conditions that are responsible for the highest proportion of ill health in England. We're also investing an extra £2 billion to help more people with disabilities."

Separate figures show that the number of working-age people claiming universal credit for health problems rose by more than 300,000 in a year to 1.8 million. Ministers believe the system, which pays twice as much to those with health needs, encourages people to focus on what they cannot do.

Our national sanatorium, leading article, page 31

Worrying rise

The number of people inactive due to long-term sickness and reporting five or more health conditions has risen 42 per cent from 2019



Oil-fired boiler ban may be delayed after Tory gripes

George Grylls Political Correspondent

Ministers are looking at delaying a ban on the installation of oil-fired boilers by 2026 after a backlash from Tory MPs.

About 1.7 million off-grid houses would be affected by the ban, which is part of the government's plan to hit net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Under the proposals, homeowners would have to install more expensive heat pumps instead. The Countryside Alliance is among the organisations that have campaigned against the ban, arguing that it would have a disproportionate effect on rural communities.

Rishi Sunak is conducting an audit of net-zero policies before the next election, reviewing the green policies announced under Boris Johnson.

Ministers have already softened their stance on the oil-fired boiler ban by accepting an amendment to the government's energy bill after a rebellion of Tory MPs led by George Eustice, the former environment secretary. The amendment forces providers of liquid fuel for boilers to supply renewable products. The Times now understands that the government is looking at revising the 2026 date. A government source said that ministers wanted to take a "pragmatic" approach to reaching net zero.

The audit is seen as a way to address cost of living concerns. A new oil-fired boiler costs about £4,700 on average, compared with £10,000 for an air-source heat pump, according to The Eco Experts, a consultancy, although government grants can halve this.

Some net-zero measures are set to remain after lobbying from business, including the forced transition to electric cars. Sunak is ready to phase out petrol and diesel cars on a strict time frame before a total ban on new models being sold in 2030.

Craig Mackinlay, Conservative chairman of the net zero scrutiny group of MPs, said: "Real net-zero costs are now coming into view, with public support waning once the reality of huge bills and curtailment of freedoms becomes real. Net zero will become an electoral battleground."

Abuse victims warn Big Tech over privacy

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

A coalition of more than 100 sexual abuse survivors, families and child safety experts has urged tech platforms to consult victims about the safety of end-to-end encryption.

The letter was sent before the passing of the Online Safety Bill to executives such as Mark Zuckerberg at Meta and Meredith Whittaker at Signal. It said: "The pursuit of end-to-end encryption without safeguards will mean offenders can contact, groom and abuse children behind closed doors. In the future, it will be a new technology that puts children at risk."

End-to-end encryption ensures that only sender and recipient can view a message. Signal had threatened to quit the UK over provisions in the bill that it believed would undermine encryption. The government defused the row.

Ofcom said it was ready to set out standards for tackling "online harms".

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Brand allegations

come forward, she said: "If they feel ready, and it's not going to traumatise them too much, come forward."

The women who have alleged sexual assaults by Brand do not know each other. They said they felt ready to speak only after being approached by reporters. Many felt compelled to speak because of Brand's reinvention as an influencer with millions of web followers.

A Met spokesman said: "We are aware of media reporting of a series of allegations of sexual assault. At this time, we have not received any reports in relation to this. If anyone believes they have been the victim of a sexual assault we would encourage them to contact police."

The BBC has also begun an investigation and said: "Russell Brand worked on BBC radio programmes between 2006 and 2008 and we are urgently looking into the issues raised."

Brand, 48, is in the middle of a stand-up tour. After the first reports into his treatment of women were published, he appeared on Saturday at a London theatre, and received support from many of his dedicated fans. One of the planned tour gigs, in Plymouth next week, was due to be in collaboration with Trevi, a domestic abuse charity. The charity said it was "deeply saddened and upset" to learn about the allegations and had stopped its work with him.

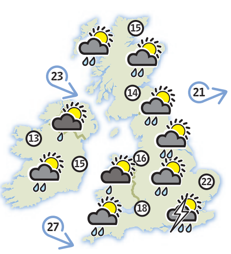
Nazir Afzal, a former chief prosecutor, praised the reporting by The Times and Sunday Times as a "meticulously researched and sourced investigation".

The Times and The Sunday Times gave Brand eight days within which to reply to allegations. Lawyers for Brand initially said that they were not in a position to provide any response because we had posed a "large litany of questions" and had intentionally chosen to anonymise the names of the women. Pressed to provide a full response, the same lawyers did not reply.

When given further opportunity to respond, Brand broadcast a statement on his YouTube channel saying "amidst this litany of astonishing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute".

Reports, pages 4-7

THE WEATHER



A band of showery rain will spread eastwards leaving sunny spells and showers. **Full forecast, page 53**

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Family square the Magic Circle

Marvin Berglas's latest trick is to follow his father into conjuring's leading role, writes Constance Kampfner



Marvin Berglas performing with his father and, below, with his Magic Circle medal. The new president is known for his Marvin's Magic boxes of tricks round the world

A father-and-son double act have cemented themselves as the leading dynasty in the world of magic.

Marvin Berglas, 64, who describes himself as a "second-generation magician", is following in the footsteps of his father, David, after being elected president of the UK's oldest magic society.

David, 97, who invented what is often described as the world's greatest card trick, was president of the Magic Circle between 1989 and 1998. Cited by the likes of Dynamo and Derren Brown as a key inspiration, David Berglas, a German-Jewish refugee, was one of the first magicians to appear on British television.

He drove blindfolded through London and made a grand piano vanish in a hotel banquet room filled with guests, with the pianist toppling face first onto the floor.

His most famous trick, known as the "Berglas Effect", involves an audience member selecting a card (say the two of diamonds) and a number between 1 and 52 (say 24). Without Berglas appearing to touch the deck, the two of diamonds would appear as the 24th card in the pack.

During a phone interview, Marvin asks me to pick a card. Seconds later he directs me to a website where a photograph of him holding that same card beams out at me. A modern take on a classic.



Marvin was steeped in magic as a child, travelling the world with his brother Peter to watch his father perform, and first appeared with David aged five on the 1960s children's TV show the *Five O'Clock Club*. But he was much keener on playing football. "To be perfectly honest, I wasn't that interested," he said. "At school, if I could use it to get to the front of a nightclub queue by wowing the bouncer, or for meeting girls, then it was great. But that was probably not what it was for."

That all changed when at the age of 16 Marvin accompanied his father to a magic convention in France where, waiting for David's performance to end, he started playing around with some cards. A huge crowd formed around him. "Something must have sparked in me," he said. "I think I had the inbuilt showmanship, and from that I really got into magic big time."

Today, he is better known for his first name than his last. Marvin's Magic is the world's biggest magic company, selling boxes of tricks at shops around the world. He is also Arsenal football club's resident magician.

"If you're compared, it's twice as hard — you've got to do it on your own merits," he said. "My dad has got a very unique style and method and I wanted to make my own name."

Berglas said he hoped to restore the Magic Circle to its former glory while making it more inclusive. The 1,700-member organisation started admitting women only in 1991 and today counts fewer than 100 among its ranks. "It used to hold a huge amount of prestige and I think that's fallen away a little bit," he said. "It's up to me to get the profile back up there and celebrate the talent we have in this country and around the world."

Ace up his sleeve

There are many theories behind the workings of David Berglas's famous card trick, but despite revealing almost every other secret in his six-decade career, the British magician has continued to declare it unteachable (Shayma Bakht writes).

Berglas, 97, who held his post as president of the Magic Circle for almost a decade in the 1990s, had his career cemented by the "Berglas Effect", which he debuted in 1953.

It is a version of the classic magic formula Any Card at Any Number (ACAAN), where a spectator is asked to name any card in a deck — such as the ten of hearts — and another member of the audience picks a number between one and 52, for example five. Cards are then dealt one by one, and the fifth one to emerge is the card named by the first person. In this example, it is the ten of hearts.

While dozens of variations of ACAAN have emerged since its inception in the 1700s — with some involving the spectator writing down the selected card and others including a deck full of blanks — Berglas's remains unique because after placing his deck on the table he does not touch the cards until after the final revelation. All other variations of the trick feature some sleight of hand and touching of the deck.

Berglas previously told The New York Times: "It's not a secret I can give to anyone because it's not a secret as such." He said that revealing his method would be "like asking a musician who can improvise to teach you his improvisation, which of course he can't".

Theories about the magic behind the touchless ACAAN include accusations that Berglas used a stooge disguised as a spectator who would have memorised the order of the cards to be able to call out the second number, after the first genuine spectator offers their random card of choice, so he could seamlessly count down to the reveal.

Berglas has always denied using a stooge, which in a trick like this is considered cheating, and pointed to the number of professional magicians who were given private, one-on-one performances and could not explain the outcome.

Others, such as Aaron Fisher, the American magician, pointed to Berglas's background in psychotherapy and medical hypnosis. Fisher said simply that Berglas "messes with minds … not decks".

In Richard Kaufman's book *The Berglas Effects*, which attempts to explain all of Berglas's tricks, the author, also a magician, admitted he could not give an answer to the trick. He suggested that Berglas was simply an exceptional improviser and gambler who used psychological manipulation in this specific performance.

Not tonight darling, I've got a bad case of panda jet lag

Kieran Gair

The panda's primary enemies were once poaching, habitat loss and a lacklustre libido. Now, a study has found, the species has a new threat to contend with: jet lag.

Captive pandas living in zoos outside their normal latitudes in China are less active and exhibited more "abnormal" behaviour than their wild counterparts.

"Animals, including humans, have evolved rhythms to synchronise their internal environment with the external environment," said Kristine Gandia of the University of Stirling. "When internal clocks are not synchronised with external cues like light and temperature, animals experience adverse effects. In humans, this can range from jet lag to metabolic issues and seasonal affective disorder."

Jet lag occurs when the body's circadian rhythm — its expected sleep and wake times — is out of sync with a new location. Animals' circadian clocks normally get cues from their environment: light cycles, seasonal food availability and temperature.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Psychology, found that a change in conditions could leave animals "jet lagged", particularly if, like pandas, their circadian rhythms are dependent on the seasons.

Gandia, the lead author of the study, used webcams to monitor 11 giant pandas at five zoos both inside and outside their natural latitudinal range.

Captive pandas showed three peaks of activity over 24 hours, including a peak at night, just like their wild counterparts. Adult pandas displayed sexual behaviours only in daytime, which could make it easier to find mates. Pandas outside their home latitude were less active, however.



Giant pandas prefer to find a mate in daylight

The world's giant panda population is disturbingly small, with fewer than 2,000 now living in the mountains of western China — the only region where they are found in the wild.

Pandas are notoriously difficult to breed, Gandia said, and scientists have tried nearly everything to increase the population in captivity, including showing films of other pandas mating.

'All I could think was, how will

Continued from page 1
decided to speak publicly. "I think it's time. I'm stronger now," she tells me during one of our first phone conversations, after we are introduced by her friend. "At the time, I was so depleted of everything that I thought I was worth nothing. And that is not true.

"I just want to help make a change because I know it's not just me that was hurt by this … When I heard that you were doing this I was like, 'OK, I'm ready — I'm ready to do this now.' "

Referring to Brand's public image as a wellness influencer, she claims: "He's saying one thing and I know the demon underneath it."

In the months after Nadia and I are introduced, we share dozens of messages by email and phone, speak regularly and meet in a hotel garden in London and a café in Los Angeles, a few miles from where Brand lived.

When we first meet in LA, she is thoughtful and asks about me and my life, as well as talking about what happened to her. She is confident, articulate and sisterly. Despite the apparent emotional upheaval of reliving what she describes as a traumatic period in her life, she frequently voices concern for other women who may have allegations against Brand. This, she says, has remained her primary motivation for speaking out.

Nadia, whose identity is being protected, kept records from the period when she met Brand. She never deleted texts that they exchanged, or her call records, and she had photographs of the medicines she was prescribed by the rape treatment centre to prevent sexually transmitted infections.

She describes sending a letter to Brand in the months after her alleged attack, and has kept a version on her computer that has not been modified since September 2012.

After deciding to share her experience, Nadia also requested her full dossier of notes and records from the rape treatment centre, which detail the extensive therapy she required.

Brand had filed for divorce from Perry in late 2011 and met Nadia a short time later. Nadia, who lives in LA and was in her thirties at the time, had gone to a "trial run" for his new show.

Brand, then 37, had established himself as a Hollywood film star and was making appearances as a guest on primetime television programmes.

"There was an afterparty. I'd never met Russell before, ever, and he literally made a beeline for me and said, 'I want to meet you'," she says. "We were chatting backstage … and he leant in and kissed me straight away. I was kind of shocked because it was very, very quick. And he's like, 'I'm going to call you'. I'm like, 'OK'. And then his bodyguards walked me and my girlfriend out."

In a photograph from the event Brand can be seen looking directly into Nadia's eyes as they stand close together. "The way he just looks at you . . . he's very intense with him trying to get my attention," she says.

The first messages on her phone from Brand began in May 2012. The following month, they had consensual sex at Brand's house in Hollywood.

"I did go round to his place and we did have sex. He's like, 'Do you want to use a condom or not use a condom?' and I'm like, 'No, absolutely we're using a condom.' And he did respect my wishes then," she recalls. "But he did have a glazed-over look. He does this thing when he glazes over — and I don't know if he's listening, I don't know what's going on in his head … It was fine — but it was a weird first-time experience with someone, when you're having sex with them for the first time."

Several days later, Brand messaged suggesting she "bring a friend", saying: "I feel like I require a little chaos."

Nadia then tells me about the next time she saw Brand at his house.

"July 1, 2012 was when my rape happened," she says. "I was out late and he happened to call me and say, 'I've had a really bad day, please come over'. And I, at first I said, 'No, I'm not going, it's late'. And he's like, 'Please come, just come and cuddle with me'. So then I gave in. And I'm like, OK."

Despite her initial reluctance to go when it was so late, she says that Brand was someone she felt "safe" with at that point. The door was unlocked when Nadia arrived and she walked straight in. She was wearing a dress with a coat and had a bag.

Brand emerged from the bedroom naked, according to Nadia. She remembers him making a comment along the lines of: "I'll keep you safe."

"He came at me with kisses and stuff, which was kind of fun. And then it wasn't that fun when I couldn't move," she says. "He pushed me up against a wall. I'm like, 'What are you doing?' And he's like, 'I have a friend here and I, I want you to come in the bedroom.' I'm like, 'No, that's not happening, we're not doing that.' "

Nadia says she "tried to get away from him" and moved away from the wall she was standing against.

"And then I went to another wall that had a painting on it," she says. "And my bag got actually stuck underneath that, and it's still on my arm. And at this point he's grabbing at my underwear, pulling it to the side. I'm telling him to 'get off of me' and he won't get off. And he has that glazed look in his eye again."

Brand, Nadia claims, raped her, without a condom. "I was so distraught, trying to get out the house with him being so much taller than me, like, holding me up against the wall, pushing himself in me. All this time, I'm like, there's somebody in the bedroom listening, why are they not coming out to help me?" She says she "couldn't move" and "all I could think of was how am I going to get out of here, alive, basically".

Brand then blocked the door, according to Nadia, who says he only stood to the side after she told him she needed the bathroom.

She "ran out" and got into her car, where she recalled sitting for a short period. At 3.29am Brand sent Nadia a text message. He wrote: "I'm sorry. That was crazy and selfish. I hope you can forgive me, I know that you're a lovely person. X." The telephone number that Brand used to send the messages has been verified by multiple sources.

Nadia describes getting in the shower after arriving home and feeling unable to move. She was up most of the night. She did not reply to Brand's text until 10.59am, saying: "You scared the shit out of me. You're right I am a lovely person and for you to take advantage of me like that is unexpectable [sic]."

Brand replied that he was "very sorry" and "embarrassed".

Nadia, meanwhile, had spoken to a friend, who took her to UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center's Rape Treatment Center (RTC). Nadia's medical notes state that a named officer from the Los Angeles Police Department was alerted. Nadia declined to make a police report but provided her underwear and other samples as evidence, which were frozen. She received therapy sessions at the centre for the next five months.

The notes show that when she was first seen, on July 1, 2012, she was described as "friendly and engaging, but intermittently tearful and seemingly overwhelmed".

The notes state: "The victim's primary concern while at the RTC was protecting her reputation as she was worried that, if her assailant's name is somehow released, then her

After the 'assault'

How Brand texted 'sorry' to Nadia

Jul 1, 2012 at 3:29 AM

I'm sorry. That was crazy and selfish. I hope you can forgive me, I know that you're a lovely person. X

Jul 1, 2012 at 10:59 AM

U scared the shit out of me. Ur right I am a lovely person and for u to take advantage of me like that is unexpectable. You have a problem, u need help. It's dangerous that u think u can get ur own way all the time, Do u know how scary u r when that glaze look comes over u. When a girl say NO it means no. Do I have to go and get myself tested? Last time U asked me condom or no condom. When I say condom that doesn't mean it optional, U don't have the best reputation, I pry myself on being safe and trying to make the right decisions. Obviously this was a bad one. I'm so disappointed.

Im very sorry. You don't need to get tested. I will make this up to you somehow with live and kindness. Not my original idea which was more sex. You've been lovely to me and I'm embarrassed by my behavior. Sorry. X

Aug 5, 2012 at 1:46 AM

Will you ever forgive me? X



Nadia says she was raped against a wall by Russell Brand, who ignored her pleas for him to stop and pulled at her clothes.

Extracts from Nadia's medical notes

Victim declined to make a report to law enforcement, but LAPD West Hollywood Division Officer [NAME REDACTED BLANK OUT] was contacted and alerted that victim was at the RTC reporting a sexual assault.

Victim presented as friendly and engaging, but intermittently tearful and seemingly overwhelmed.

Victim's primary concern while at the RTC was protecting her reputation as she was worried that, if her assailant's name is somehow released, then her name will be "dragged through the dirt".

...doing the closing ceremony at the Olympics...when unfortunately it came on the TV and she had to be subjected to his singing for a period of time. [NAME REDACTED BLANK OUT] stated that she becomes very angry when the public is "adoring" him, wanting to shout out that he is a rapist.

"After she refused, the assailant repeated, 'I'm not going to hurt you' and started kissing [the] victim again. According to victim, he then pushed her up against the wall, separated her legs with his leg, moved her underwear to the side and vaginally penetrated her, ejaculating inside her once he was finished. Per victim, she attempted to leave his home, but he would not allow her to do so as he was blocking the door."

"She is often triggered as she sees assailant on TV and on billboards."

I get out … alive'



"He has that glazed look in his eye," said, recounting the attack in Los Angeles

name will be dragged through the dirt."

A write-up of an initial assessment on July 1 describes how she had gone over to the unnamed assailant's house earlier that day before he kissed her.

The notes state: "After several minutes, the assailant said, 'You know I'm going to take care of you, that I'm not going to hurt you, right? Are you ready for an adventure?'

"Per victim, she learned that the assailant was referring to a sexual adventure that included other women. Victim reported that she was appalled and refused to engage in any sexual acts that involved other women.

"After she refused, the assailant repeated, 'I'm not going to hurt you' and started kissing [the] victim again. According to [the] victim, he then pushed her up against the wall, separated her legs with his leg, moved her underwear to the side and vaginally penetrated her, ejaculating inside her once he was finished. Per victim, she attempted to leave his home, but he would not allow her to do so as he was blocking the door."

The notes from her second session at the centre state that she "is a woman who has prided herself in her independence" and "so it has been difficult for her to accept that a man she thought she could trust raped her".

While Brand is not identified by name in the medical notes, there are various references that correlate with his life at that time.

Nadia was described as being "triggered" by seeing the assailant on TV and billboards and facing "constant reminders of [the] assailant with songs on the radio his ex-wife wrote for him".

The notes state that the assailant was "doing the closing ceremony at the Olympics" and "unfortunately it came on the TV". At the closing ceremony of the London Games on August 12, 2012, Brand appeared on top of a bus. A week earlier, he had texted Nadia for the first time since the period after the alleged attack. "Will you ever forgive me? X?" the texts show.

During her therapy sessions, Nadia said she was contemplating criminal or civil proceedings before ultimately deciding against it. But she decided to write Brand a letter. According to the medical notes, "she wants him to hear her and is hoping to regain some of her power in the process".

Nadia says she texted Brand asking for his email address and when he did not provide it, she says she sent the letter to his house. Her therapy notes from October 2012 refer to her saying: "I fedexed the letter". She has shown me the computer file she had used to write the letter. She asked: "Do you know what you put me through? My body through? My emotions and body are turned upside down … You scared the shit out of me on July 1st, I thought in any situation I would be strong enough to fight someone off. But when it's someone you know, you don't expect to be put in that position. You completely broke me down."

She wrote that "no means no" and asked him: "Why didn't you stop when I asked you to?" She described how she had "sat and cried for most of the night" afterwards as she tried to figure out what had happened. She told him about the rape treatment centre. She wrote: "I didn't see the fun loving guy in front of me, I saw a man who couldn't control himself and the word NO is more of a challenge than a command."

In the letter, Nadia told Brand that she did not "press charges" over the attack, or give staff at the rape treatment centre his name, and questioned: "Why am I protecting you?", saying that although it was a felony she did not want to be responsible for life-changing repercussions. She has now said that she did not want to be the reason that his career collapsed.

Nadia ended the letter with the words: "This letter is for me to work through my stuff, not for you, I just needed you to hear me."

Today Nadia appears strong and says she is speaking publicly because she cares deeply about women's safety. She asks herself: "What do I want out of this? Just for him to stop … I'm just sick of seeing men get away with this."

The Times and Sunday Times gave Brand eight days to reply to detailed allegations, including information to enable him to recall the alleged incidents. Lawyers for Brand initially said that they were not in a position to provide any response to the allegations because we had posed a "large litany of questions" and had intentionally chosen to anonymise the names of the women. They characterised this as deliberate and part of a pre-conceived strategy aimed at damaging their client. They said that publication was a "concerted campaign" and their client believes that there is a "deeply concerning agenda to all this, namely the fact that he is an alternative media broadcaster competing with mainstream media". Pressed to provide a full response, the same lawyers did not reply.

When given further opportunity to respond, Brand broadcast a statement on his YouTube channel saying "amidst this litany of astonishing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute".

He said that his relationships had always been consensual. He accused the mainstream media of a co-ordinated attack and said that there were witnesses whose evidence directly contradicted the narratives. The Times and Sunday Times asked his lawyer for the evidence referred to but no answer was provided.

If you would like to get in touch with the reporting team responsible for this investigation, email investigations@news.co.uk

STORIES OF OUR TIMES

To hear more about the investigation, and from two of the women involved, listen to a special edition of Stories of Our Times wherever you get your podcasts

thetimes.co.uk/podcasts/stories-of-our-times

Colleague says he pinned her down in a locked room

Charlotte Wace

It had been an ordinary working afternoon when Phoebe suddenly found herself alone with Russell Brand.

She was collaborating with him on a project in Los Angeles and, along with other members of the team, she was sometimes required to work from his home in Hollywood.

Phoebe, who was in her twenties at the time, said that she considered Brand a friend as well as a colleague, having met him initially at an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting. But she said that on that afternoon in early 2013 he pinned her on a bed in a locked room and sexually assaulted her as she begged him to stop.

Phoebe, which is not her real name, said that Brand, who was naked, held her down and tried to remove her clothes in a struggle that may have gone on for about 15 minutes. She said that during the attack it seemed as if his eyes "had no more colour" and "were black, like the devil".

She fled his house in tears and told mutual friends what had happened. Phoebe said that when news of her allegation reached Brand, he threatened her with legal action if she told anyone else about her allegation.

Concerned for her career, she chose not to take the matter further, but decided to tell her story after hearing that The Times was investigating allegations of abuse.

"This is just what happened and I'm at peace with it," Phoebe said. "I've been at peace with it for a very long time but … when I think about having children, having a daughter, had this had happened to her, you know, that's why I'm talking to you."

She said that Brand had been drawn to her immediately when they first met at the AA meeting in about 2011, when she had been sober for several years.

"He pursued me right away," she said. "And he sold me a dream, very manipulative, very like, 'You're the greatest thing, have my babies' like, all the ridiculous shit that men say to women to manipulate them."

She said that she had a brief sexual relationship with Brand, which had ended by the time of the alleged attack. He had also asked her to work with him. She said that a staff member who was also with them at his home had gone to run an errand and, without her realising it, she was left alone with Brand in the house and in a room adjoining a bedroom when he came in. "I can't remember if he was naked or if he was in underwear but he ended up naked at some point and he started chasing me," she said. She went into the adjoining bedroom and tried to leave but the door had been locked.

"And he grabbed me and got me on the bed. I was fully clothed and he was naked at this point. And he held me down." She said he was "aggressively" trying to have sex with her. "And I was screaming and I was like, 'What are you doing, stop, please, you're my friend, I love you, please don't do this, I don't want to do this.' And … I feel like I talked him out of it, in a weird way. I think he had his hands down my trousers but I was fighting so hard and I was screaming so hard, hoping I could get through somehow."

She remembered at one point getting her hand free and trying to push his face away. "But he had me completely pinned down." She said that Brand, who was on top of her, tried to remove her clothes as she fought back.

After about 15 to 20 minutes "something snapped" and Brand suddenly appeared to hear what she was saying. She said that he then "flipped" and was "super-angry", shouting "F*** you, you're fired, f*** you, get the f*** out".

Phoebe said that she fled the house in tears and ran barefoot to her car. Brand denies all allegations and says his relationships have been consensual.

When she was leaving Phoebe said that she passed a group of people who had arrived at the house for a meeting. Years later she met one of them. "He pulled me aside and he said to me, 'I have never forgiven myself for not running in that house to save you. I heard you screaming. And I didn't know what to do. And we were all so scared of him. And I didn't do anything. And I am sorry," she said.

Three sources said that Phoebe had told them about her allegation. She said that Brand phoned her to say sorry and invited her to a comedy show to apologise in person. She did not go.

"He was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. That's supposed to be a safe place, a sanctuary. And after that I almost drank," she said. After several days Phoebe went back to work and it became apparent that Brand knew of her allegations. She said that he then "cornered" her. "All I remember is [Brand] getting me towards the bathroom and turning the water on, the faucets, so nobody could hear him talking," she said. "And [he] was basically like, 'Sexual assault is a serious allegation and if you're f***ing serious then I need to know because you'll be hearing from my lawyer.'"

Soon after Brand moved back to the UK. Phoebe did not report what had happened to her for fear that it would affect her career. "This was before the MeToo movement. There was no one talking about stuff like this. I had no idea.

"I just wanted to succeed," she said.



Russell Brand is said to have assaulted a young colleague naked at his house

BBC car 'took girl from school to Brand's home'



Paul Morgan-Bentley
Head of Investigations
Rosamund Urwin
Media Editor, The Sunday Times

The BBC is facing urgent questions about Russell Brand after allegations that he used its car service to pick up a 16-year-old girl from her school so that she could play truant and visit him at his home.

The woman, who accuses Brand of grooming and sexually assaulting her when she was a teenager, remembers going to and from his home in north London in a chauffeur-driven car paid for by the corporation.

During their relationship, which started after Brand saw her walking in central London, Brand once allegedly forced his penis down her throat, making her choke, and she claims she had to punch him in the stomach to make him stop. He was 30 and a presenter on Radio 2 when she says they met.

Brand denies the allegations and says that his relationships have all been consensual.

The woman, who is being referred to as Alice, said of the BBC car: "The first time I used it, he told me it was booked to take him to his radio show but he had a friend taking him instead so I should use that car." She said that the BBC driver "took me to my grandma's house one day from Russell's house. And then when the car picked me up from school, it was the same car … I knew that that was a BBC car."

The BBC has announced an inquiry into the findings of the investigation into Brand's treatment of women by The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4's *Dispatches*.

A spokesman said the investigation "contained serious allegations, spanning a number of years," adding: "Russell Brand worked on BBC radio programmes between 2006 and 2008 and we are urgently looking into the issues raised."

Sources told the reporters that BBC staff had warned bosses about Brand's behaviour at work at least three times. The allegations included that he had exposed himself to a female employee and had sex with guests on his shows.

Complaints about Brand's treatment of women were made before the scandal in 2008 when Brand and his co-presenter Jonathan Ross made prank calls to the actor Andrew Sachs, who played Manuel in *Fawlty Towers*, saying that Brand had slept with his granddaughter. It led to more than 42,000 complaints about Brand's show.

Brand resigned from the BBC but Sir Mark Thompson, who was the director-general, told parliament that there were no obvious previous warning signs.

The findings follow other scandals involving BBC presenters. Last year Tim Westwood, the former Radio 1 DJ, was accused of serious sexual misconduct by women between 1992 and 2017. Westwood denied the allegations. Police are investigating and there has been no arrest.

An external report into what the BBC knew and did not know about Westwood's conduct is due to be published this year.

Huw Edwards, the BBC's highest-paid newsreader, was suspended this year in a scandal involving a young person. BBC staff were also reported to have had alleged inappropriate contact with Edwards. An internal inquiry is under way. Two police forces concluded that Edwards had no criminal case to answer.

Senior entertainment executives and political figures have criticised the BBC for tolerating Brand's behaviour and failing to stop him earlier. One former BBC controller said that what the broadcaster allowed Brand to do on air "beggars belief".

Dame Caroline Dinenage, the Conservative chairwoman of the Commons culture, media and sport committee, said: "Once again in this case we hear of media companies' 'open secrets' and 'turning a blind eye'. It's hard to see how we will be able to ignore this. The committee will be meeting on Tuesday morning to determine our approach."



Lesley Douglas was allegedly told of another claim against Russell Brand

In May 2006 a complaint was made by BBC staff about Brand's 6 Music show, sources said, including a report that people were naked in the studio while it was being live-streamed and there was "a penis going out on air".

The incident was allegedly reported to Lesley Douglas, the controller of 6 Music and Radio 2. As a result the show's producers were asked to "rein it in" but that did not stop the show moving to a more prestigious slot on Radio 2 six months later.

In December 2007 another complaint was made to BBC bosses about Brand's behaviour in the Radio 2 studio. This allegedly included an "alarming display of aggression and disrespect" in front of production staff and guests, including a young person who "appeared to be a minor" and had been sent to visit the BBC by a charity.

Brand was accused of hurling objects across the studio "in fits of rage", exposing himself and "urinating in a bottle in full view of everyone". When newspapers reported the allegation that Brand had urinated in the studio, a BBC spokeswoman was quoted as joking that "someone has shown him where the toilet is".

Brand's work at the BBC was overseen by Douglas, who also resigned after the Sachs scandal. In his memoir *Booky Wook 2*, Brand wrote that Douglas "was incredibly tolerant of my behaviour at Radio 2" and had "nurtured, nourished and indulged me as any good woman should". He wrote that when his show started his agent John Noel said that Douglas "said they'd let me do whatever I want".

Brand's BBC shows were twice subject to fines from Ofcom, the regulator. In July 2008 it fined the BBC £17,500 for a serious breach of its code after finding that Brand's show on BBC 6 Music had faked a competition winner. Brand explained in his book why they were all female. "This is because there was an additional aspect to the prize which could never be explicitly stated due to the BBC's rigid policy prohibiting the misuse of the disabled lavvy."

The Radio 2 show was the cause of a £150,000 Ofcom fine linked to the Sachs affair. In *Booky Wook 2*, Brand wrote that in the days after the scandal broke "the BBC didn't contact me, but for Lesley, who told me not to worry and that we'd be alright."

In November 2008 Thompson told MPs: "If you look at [his show] and the management of this show, I don't think you can go back, as it were, through the audit trail and say, even of this programme, that it was obvious that it was an accident waiting to happen."

In May 2007 Brand phoned Jimmy Savile on air and said: "I've got a personal assistant … And part of her job description is that anyone I demand she greet, meet, massages, she has to do it. She's very attractive, Jimmy." This was four years before Savile's death and five years before details of Savile's crimes were exposed.

Lorraine Heggessey, who was controller of BBC1 between 2000 until 2005, said it "beggars belief" that the BBC broadcast Brand's radio interview with Savile. She told *Dispatches*: "Somebody should have said it's not acceptable to continually have these jokes about sex, jokes about women."

A spokesman for the BBC said it had clear expectations and policies around conduct at work and had taken the Sachs affair seriously. He added that "in addition to acting on the serious editorial breach at the time, the BBC has, over successive years, evolved its approach to how it manages talent and indeed how it deals with complaints or issues raised".

Lawyers for Douglas said that she "did not at any time encourage, enable and/or fail herself to take any adequate steps within her power with regard to the conduct of Russell Brand of which she was aware".

Lawyers for Brand said that publication was a "concerted campaign" and their client believes that there is a "deeply concerning agenda to all this, namely the fact that he is an alternative media broadcaster competing with mainstream media".

Brand said on his YouTube channel that "amidst this litany of astonishing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute". He said his relationships had all been consensual.

Accused comedian in his own words



As I escorted Michaela [a lap dancer who slapped him after sex] through the front door, I felt very strongly that I needed to avenge the slap . . . I spat in her face. (*My Booky Wook*)

I was allowed to sleep in her [a girl called Penny's] bed top to toe. I spun gags and yarns till she let me turn round, I painted verbal pictures and begged until she kissed me, I lied and danced and evoked the spirit of Pan till reluctantly she removed her bra, I used tears and emotional blackmail to secure the immolation of her knickers. (*My Booky Wook*)

By my twenties I would relish the challenge of chaste maids and the search for the correct combination of words required to decode their moral resistance . . . The nobstacle course, I call it. (*My Booky Wook*)

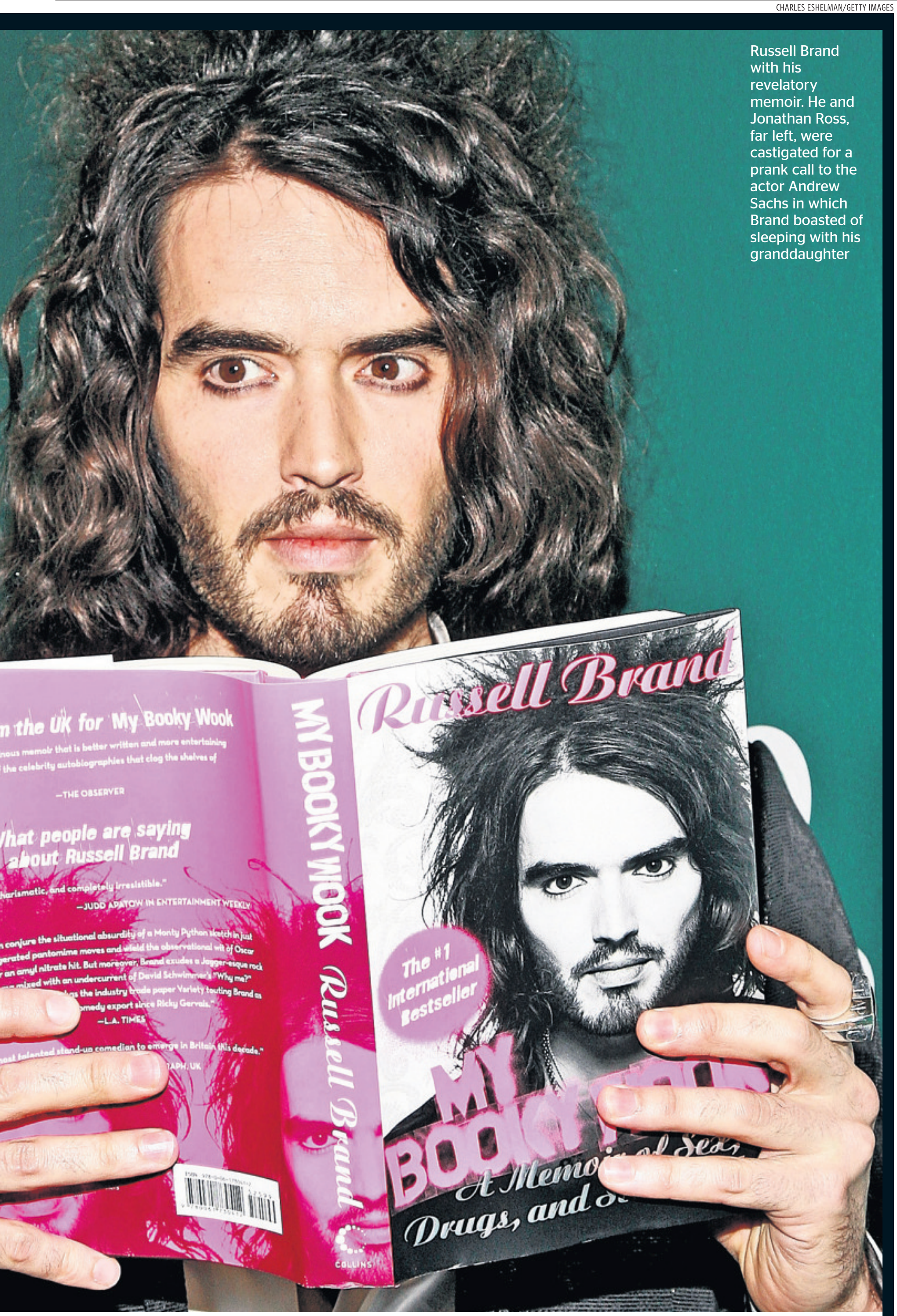
I'm the most obsequious creature, utterly enslaved by that need [for sex], do whatever it wants, it's ludicrous, the level of servitude and mastery over me that it has achieved. (*Booky Wook 2*)

This girl was a sorry, fair-weather excuse for a prostitute … then the phone rings again, and I, and this is the worst act of misogyny I've committed since the spitting debacle, took the phone out of her hand and threw it at the wall. (*My Booky Wook*)

What kind of man was I? Treating women in this way? If this is what I'm telling you, can you imagine what's being left out? (*Booky Wook 2*)

It took maybe two weeks [of teaching a language course] before I realised my classroom was a sexy library from which I could borrow lovely women from all around the world:

CHARLES ESHELMAN/GETTY IMAGES



Russell Brand with his revelatory memoir. He and Jonathan Ross, far left, were castigated for a prank call to the actor Andrew Sachs in which Brand boasted of sleeping with his granddaughter

Backers distance themselves as star carries on

Mario Ledwith, Ali Mitib

Only hours after an investigation revealed allegations of rape and sexual assault against Russell Brand, the comedian arrived on stage to rapturous applause in London.

Wearing skinny jeans, a black T-shirt and jacket, he emerged an hour later than billed to the 1963 feminist anthem *You Don't Own Me* by Lesley Gore.

Standing on stage at the Wembley Park theatre in west London on Saturday night as the world reacted to the joint investigation by The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4's *Dispatches*, Brand was immediately offered reassurance by his fanbase.

After spotting a woman who was holding a sign saying, "We stand by you Russell. Stay strong. Stay free. We love you", he made his only reference to the claims during the show. Looking at the crowd, he said: "I really appreciate your support, I love you. I've got a lot of things to talk to you about. There are obviously some things that I absolutely cannot talk about and I appreciate that you will understand."

The night before, Brand broadcast a statement on his YouTube channel saying "amidst this litany of astonishing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute". He said his relationships had always been consensual. He denies any wrongdoing or criminality.

Despite promising to put on a good show, Brand appeared distracted throughout the performance on Saturday, part of his *Bipolarisation* tour.

Following the stuttered performance, during which Brand checked written notes, fans expressed their support. Daniel Gregory, a spectator, said: "He was a bit dishevelled because of the accusations against him. I think he did well to come on the stage."

Marina, an officer worker, said she was unaware of the allegations against Brand. "I haven't seen the investigation but I'm not one to believe everything I read in the press," she said.

Brand will have to carry out the three remaining dates under a cloud of scrutiny after allegations emerged about mistreatment of women. The comedian, who has attracted a new audience as a wellness influencer in recent years, is due to appear at the Theatre Royal in Windsor on Tuesday night, then The Pavilions in Plymouth on Friday. His tour finishes at The Halls in Wolverhampton on September 28.

None of the theatres responded to questions on Sunday about whether the shows would go ahead in the wake of the accusations, as the Metropolitan Police said they were seeking information in relation to the alleged actions.

A domestic abuse charity that was due to partner with Brand for his Plymouth performance said it had stopped working with him. Trevi, based in southwest England, said it was "deeply saddened and upset" to learn about the allegations. The charity started working with Brand last year through his charity, the Stay Free Foundation.

Organisations associated with Brand began to distance themselves from him as the allegations came to light. Tavistock Wood, his literary agency, said it had severed professional ties, while his profile has been removed by his publicists at MBC PR.

Brand is no longer a fixture on the BBC and Channel 4, the broadcasters where he made his name. Instead, alongside his live comedy shows and wellness retreats, he publishes videos directly to his millions of followers on social sites such as Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, Twitter/X and Rumble.

A new book written by Brand called *Recovery: the Workbook* is due to be published by Pan Macmillan this December, described as a "practical guidebook to help you move from unconscious doing to conscious being". The publisher did not respond on Sunday when asked about the accusations.

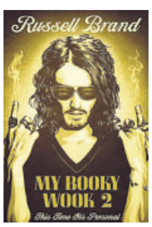
Too many taken in by Russell Brand's alternative reality, Will Lloyd, page 28

Italian, Brazilian, Japanese; I brought back these two Polish women once and [a friend] said, 'They look like them girls in Schindler's List that put blood on their cheeks to avoid being executed.' I liked them. (*My Booky Wook*)

I estimate that 80 per cent of women are up for threesomes if you handle the negotiation carefully. (*Booky Wook 2*)

Lesley Douglas [the former BBC radio controller] was incredibly tolerant of my behaviour at Radio 2. If you listen to old 6 Music podcasts, you will notice that all the competition winners that came into the studio while we broadcast as a prize were female. This is because there was an additional aspect to the prize which could never be explicitly stated due to the BBC's rigid policy prohibiting the misuse of the disabled lavvy. (*Booky Wook 2*)

The line between good and evil runs not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either, but through every human heart. (*My Booky Wook*, quoting Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in his *The Gulag Archipelago*)



Fewer rapes are reported amid lack of faith in police

Tom Witherow

The boost in women reporting sexual assault and rapes has "faded away", the former victims' commissioner has said, as experts in prosecuting sexual crimes warned that trust in police and the criminal justice system had sunk to a new low among women.

Dame Vera Baird, the former victims' commissioner who campaigned for a series of changes to improve the experience of complainants in the criminal justice system, said: "You'd hope MeToo would have made women feel more confident in coming forward but that's all faded away."

The Crime Survey for England and Wales published by the Office for National Statistics found that only 16 per cent of alleged victims report their assault to the police.

Nazir Afzal, the former chief prosecutor for northwest England who brought Asian rape gangs in northern towns and cities to justice, said it had taken victims 30 years "to get the courage to stand up to powerful people" in some case his teams worked on.

The cases of Wayne Couzens, who used his police credentials in the murder of Sarah Everard, and David Carrick, a former Metropolitan Police constable convicted of 85 rapes and serious assaults, further damaged trust.

It can also take two to three years, or more, from a complainant making a report to the start of a trial, while victims are forced to hand over personal information and data to police. Recent changes have restricted the amount of data police can download from mobile phones but therapy records are still required and can be used by the defence to undermine a complainant's evidence.

Women's charities pointed to a culture of "victim blaming" based on "myths and stereotypes". Deniz Ugur, deputy director of the End Violence Against Women coalition, said: "The fear of not being believed … contribute[s] to women not feeling able to report rape and sexual violence."

Booster jab bookings begin as Pirola variant of Covid spreads

Kat Lay Health Editor

Millions of people in England can begin booking coronavirus booster jabs from today as the NHS steps up its winter vaccination programme.

The scheme is beginning sooner than planned in response to an emerging coronavirus variant, BA.2.86, which has a high number of mutations and appears to be circulating in the UK. The variant, also known as Pirola, caused an outbreak in a Norfolk care home this month. Government scientists are studying it to understand whether it is more likely than other types of the virus to evade immunity or cause severe disease.

NHS bosses said adults in eligible groups could book their Covid-19 vaccinations via the NHS website or app, or by calling 119. They include all over-65s, pregnant women and people with an underlying health condition that makes them more vulnerable to the virus.

Many will also be offered flu vaccination at the same time. More than 30 million people are eligible to receive a flu vaccine and over 20 million are able to get a Covid jab.

Steve Russell, the NHS director for vaccinations and screening, said: "Vaccines are our best protection against flu and Covid-19, and I strongly encourage all eligible people to come forward for their lifesaving winter vaccines as soon as they can. The new Covid variant presents a new risk, but NHS staff are rising to the challenge once more to do all they can to protect the public."

Officials had initially planned for the flu and Covid winter vaccination programme to begin in October. However, they said the risk from the new variant meant they would aim to have offered vaccination to everyone eligible by the end of that month. Vaccination of care home residents and people who are housebound began last week.

Dr Mary Ramsay, head of immunisation at the UK Health Security Agency, said: "We are already seeing a slow rise in cases of Covid-19, as well as increases in hospitalisations, particularly among the over-75s. Older people and those in clinical risk groups remain at higher risk of severe illness so it's important all those eligible come forward when offered and get protected against flu and Covid."

The NHS will send out letters while GP practices and local services such as pharmacies will also be contacting people to offer jabs.

Maria Caulfield, the health minister, said: "As we enter the autumn months, it's vital that the most vulnerable groups receive flu and Covid vaccines to strengthen their immunity and reduce pressure on the NHS.

"We're investing an additional £200 million in the NHS to support it during its busiest period. We can all do our bit to help ease pressures, so I encourage anyone eligible to get their vaccines booked as soon as they are called, to ensure we all head into winter with the best protection."

The campaign to vaccinate children aged two to 17 against flu has also begun, and parents are being urged to complete consent forms for the nasal spray vaccine as soon as possible. Those vaccines are typically given at school. Invitations to parents of children aged two and three, usually vaccinated at GP surgeries, are being sent out today.

Q&A

Am I eligible for a Covid jab?
Yes, if you are over 65 or are in a group that is at clinical risk. Frontline health workers and carers will also be vaccinated, as will care home residents. Those who live with people whose immune systems do not function properly are eligible.

What about flu vaccination?
There is an overlap between those eligible for Covid and flu jabs. However, the flu programme also includes children aged two and three, all children in primary schools and students in years seven to 11.

Why the need for vaccinations?
Flu and Covid are both expected to be in wide circulation this winter.

Can I get vaccinated privately?
The flu vaccine is available privately and in high street pharmacies. Covid vaccines are not available privately.

How do I book my jabs?
The NHS will contact those eligible. You can then go online and use the National Booking Service. If you are unable to get online you can call the telephone booking service on 119.



Quintagram® No 1736

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Freshly bought (3)
_ _ _
2 --- Shelley, *Frankenstein* author (4)
_ _ _ _
3 Cooking liquid (5)
_ _ _ _ _
4 Pearly Gates custodian (5,5)
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
5 Location on an itinerary (4,2,4)
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	C	C	E	E	E
F	I	K	L	L	M	N	N
O	O	O	P	P	R	R	R
S	S	T	T	T	T	W	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues every day online

Tenor's charity bequest

After surviving two brain tumours the tenor Russell Watson has left a song in his will to be released when he dies in aid of Worldwide Cancer Research. He hopes the single, a medley of his most popular songs, will help fund a cure and make people more comfortable with planning for their death. "Often when we are writing wills we think about those closest to us. But a will, much like a piece of music, has the power to touch the lives of so many more," he said. Watson, 56, had tumours diagnosed in 2006 and 2007.

CPR 'touching' fear

Women are less likely than men to be given CPR if they collapse from a cardiac arrest in public, as bystanders may be worried about "non-consensual touching", Canadian researchers will tell the European Emergency Medicine Congress in Barcelona. A study of 39,391 cardiac arrest events outside hospitals in the United States and Canada from 2005 to 2015 also suggested that the older the patient is, the less likely they are to be given CPR by strangers.

Rain cheers cider firms

It may have been a dismal summer but the unseasonal downpours and a warm spring have made for a bumper apple crop, according to cider growers. The sun and rain provided "just the right balance of acidity and sweetness" to press for cider, said Thatchers Cider. Staff at its Myrtle Farm base in Sandford, Somerset, will spend the next few months harvesting, with Katy apples the first fruits arriving at the mill.

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CHRIS STRICKLAND



Times passed To mark its 150th anniversary Hawick Rugby Club re-enacted its first game, on a cricket pitch against Langholm. Bill McLaren, the late commentator, played for the club in the Scottish Borders

Bring in Martha's Rule quickly, urges coroner after strep A death

Kat Lay Health Editor

A coroner has urged the government to swiftly bring in "Martha's Rule" after a nine-year-old girl sent home from hospital with suspected tonsilitis died from the bacterial infection strep A.

Riya Hirani suffered a cardiac arrest the day after she was sent home but would have survived had she been given the antibiotics her family had asked for, the coroner ruled.

The proposed rule would give families and patients the explicit right to a second opinion if they felt their concerns were not being taken seriously. The government and the Labour Party have committed to introducing it. The rule is named after Martha Mills, who died two years ago, aged 13, after contracting sepsis at King's College Hospital in south London.

Riya, who was described as "strong, healthy and active" by her family, fell ill in December last year and was seen at Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow, northwest London. She complained of neck pains and was struggling to speak. She was initially asked to stay for observation due to a high heart rate.

However, Dr Mahmud Benoune sent her home shortly afterwards, diagnosing tonsillitis. He advised Riya's mother to give her paracetamol or ibuprofen as required and to return if her symptoms worsened. Riya's condition deteriorated the next day and as her parents were preparing to take her back to hospital, she collapsed and her heart stopped.

Paramedics revived her but she died five days later at Great Ormond Street Hospital in central London.

Mary Hassell, the senior coroner for inner north London, concluded that Riya would have survived had she been given antibiotics when she was first seen in December last year.

Hassell said: "Riya died from a Group A streptococcus infection. I am satisfied that at the point she was brought in,



Riya Hirani died after she was denied the antibiotics her parents asked for

she was showing signs and symptoms of a bacterial infection and should have been … admitted and treated with antibiotics. I am satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities, if Riya had been appropriately treated she would have survived."

Benoune, who has since left Northwick Park, told the inquest that although Riya's tonsils were inflamed he did not believe them to be "severely inflamed", one of five key criteria to diagnose strep A. The inquest heard that Riya had two other indicative symptoms: a fever and symptoms persisting for more than 24 hours.

Geeta Hirani, Riya's mother, told the doctor she had emphasised to him that Riya was struggling to speak, another potential sign of strep A. Riya's father, Mukesh Hirani, said: "Numerous times we asked about antibiotics. You sent her home with no medication."

Hassell told the inquest she would write two prevention of future death reports: one to Northwick Park and another to Steve Barclay, the health secretary, advising him to push ahead with Martha's Rule.

Martha's parents, Merope Mills, a senior journalist at The Guardian, and Paul Laity, an editor at the London Review of Books, launched a campaign calling for the rule this month.

Stabbed teenager was kind and funny, say friends

Tom Witherow

Flowers left for a stab victim paid tribute to the 14-year-old boy who "knew how to put a smile on … anyone's face".

Nathaniel Shani was killed after a "senseless altercation" in Harpurhey, northeast Manchester, on Friday.

Police and paramedics raced to the scene before Nathaniel was taken to hospital but he could not be saved.

Greater Manchester police said that two boys aged 13 and 14 had been arrested on suspicion of murder. The force released a statement with a picture of Nathaniel wearing an air cadet uniform in which he was described as "polite" and "the most loving person".

The statement added: "He would always put other people first without a thought. He was an amazing brother and son to his parents and siblings."

Dozens of tributes, bunches of flowers and pictures were left at the scene in Harpurhey. A family friend posted on Twitter/X that Nathaniel had died "due to a senseless altercation which led to a stabbing".

A resident of the inner-city suburb told the BBC of a brawl "with kids fighting with each other". The person added: "One kid was screaming: 'Call an ambulance!' There was blood on the corner."

Locals said the square was a trouble spot because children would hang around there after school.

Alice Ungureanu, 14, a school friend, said Nathaniel was the "class clown". She added: "He always made us laugh and he was also kind." A neighbour said: "He was a nice lad, never any bother. He was always friendly."

Detective Superintendent Phil Key said he wanted to share his deepest condolences with the family and that the force would support them "throughout this extremely troubling period".

A GoFundMe fund page set up for Nathaniel's family had raised more than £2,000 last night, a third more than its target.

Downpours cause floods in southwest

George Sandeman

Homes were flooded and forecasters warned of a threat to life as heavy rain fell in southwest England yesterday.

Devon suffered the heaviest downfall, with 87mm — the monthly average for the county — recorded in 24 hours. Flights were cancelled at Exeter airport due to flooding.

The heaviest downfall was reported at Harberton, near Totnes, where houses were flooded. Betty Baldwin, 95, told the BBC she was trapped upstairs when water and mud swept into her home. Jonathan Bean, who lives near by, came to her rescue at 2.50am. He had to climb in through the kitchen window because the water was more than two feet deep.

Somerset also suffered a deluge, with 79.1mm of rain recorded at Bird's Hill, about 12 miles northwest of Taunton. The monthly average for the county is 70mm. A yellow warning for thunderstorms was issued for the southeast.

Winds are expected to reach gale force, about 40mph, tomorrow when the remnants of Hurricane Lee reach the west coast.

Ellie Glaisyer, a Met Office forecaster, said that by the time Lee reached the UK it would be "an ex-tropical storm".

She added: "It is expected to bring heavy rain and winds gusts [of] 30 to 40mph and possibly 50mph. The strongest winds are likely to be on coasts. The western side of the UK will receive the heaviest rainfall."

The Environment Agency warned of flooding. The Met Office said the rest of the UK would have unsettled conditions during the first half of the week, with strong winds and rain.

Doctors blame Sunak's ego for

Kat Lay Health Editor

Doctors are threatening to continue strikes throughout the rest of this parliament as almost all non-emergency hospital care is halted by "unprecedented" industrial action this week.

Junior doctors and consultants will strike together for the first time on Wednesday, and thousands of appointments and operations will be cancelled.

NHS leaders say that disruption to services this week will be unprecedented, and volunteers will be drafted in to A&E to help patients.

Leaders of the junior doctors' union said they would strike until there was a new government and blamed Rishi Sunak's ego for the deadlock.

Hospital consultants in England will strike tomorrow and Wednesday, and junior doctors will strike on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

It is the first time that action has overlapped, but there are plans for three days of twin strikes next month.

Saffron Cordery, deputy head of NHS Providers, said there was "a deep and growing frustration among trust leaders at the sheer lack of action to even start to break this deadlock" and urged both sides "to sit down and talk".

Dr Rob Laurenson and Dr Vivek Trivedi, who chair the British Medical Association's junior doctors' committee, said that they held Sunak responsible for strikes and accused him of wasting more than £1 billion — the estimated cost of strike cover — by failing to negotiate "in good faith from the start".

Trivedi said: "It's terrible for patients to have their clinic appointments or surgeries or any other elective activity cancelled … It's only happening because Mr Sunak is feeding into his ego."

The government has set out a pay rise worth an average of 8.8 per cent for junior doctors and 6 per cent for consultants, and insisted there will be no further talks on pay. The BMA wants "full pay restoration" to 2008 levels, which it calculates would require a 35 per cent pay rise for juniors.

There was a "massive deficit in trust" between ministers and doctors after the collapse of negotiations, and the imposition of a contract after an industrial dispute in 2016, Laurenson said. "The government has dug themselves a hole, and they have thrown away all of their trust. They need to come up with concrete proposals."

The two doctors' leaders raised the



Junior doctors and consultants will strike together for the first time

prospect of strikes being called through a general election campaign, suggesting that it could take a new government to reach a deal.

In Scotland the BMA and government have agreed a deal comprising a 12.5 per cent pay increase for junior doctors in 2023-24 and a promise of annual pay negotiations for the next three financial years.

Laurenson said that a similar deal would not work in England, because "the lifespan of the government in Westminster can only be slightly more than one year", meaning it could not commit itself to annual renegotiation.

Asked whether that meant there was a risk they would need to carry on strikes until there was a new government, Trivedi said: "If we need to."

Sir Stephen Powis, NHS England's medical director, said: "This week's first ever joint action means almost all planned care will come to a stop, and hundreds of thousands of appointments will be postponed, which is incredibly difficult for patients and their families, and poses an enormous challenge for colleagues across the NHS."

He said people should use 999 and A&E as normal "in a life-threatening situation" but that for everything else they should use 111 online or seek help from GPs and pharmacies. He added: "Patients who have an appointment and who haven't been contacted should attend as normal."

Cordery said the action "is likely to cause disruption to patient care unlike anything we've seen before". She said: "The continuing dispute and the absence of meaningful dialogue between the two sides is worrying for patients, demoralising for staff and damaging for the NHS."

It meant staff were unable to focus on reducing record waiting lists and preparing for winter, she said. Trusts had been forced "to reschedule care for more seriously ill patients who previously may have been protected from strike disruption", and that one was "planning to deploy volunteers who are invaluable in supporting patients with meals and drinks as well as providing company into the emergency department during strikes".

Senior doctors were increasingly unwilling to cover junior doctor strikes, she said. "This could put already stretched NHS budgets under extra strain as trusts face losing even more income as well as the prospect of paying even more to incentivise senior doctors to cover for striking colleagues."

She urged the government and unions "to sit down and talk so that everyone's focus can get back to the real priority: providing safe, high-quality, and timely care for patients".

The doctors say they do not believe ministers when they say the pay deal is final. Trivedi said: "There are these point blank refusals to discuss pay now, which we know are simply not true. Rishi Sunak said many things in the past and then U-turns one day, two days, three days later. The only people that suffer as a result of those kind of brash comments are the public."

He said there needed to be a negotiated end to the strikes, warning that if the government hoped to win by "breaking the resolve of doctors" that would do nothing to stem rising waiting lists and poor care in hospitals.

A Department of Health and Social Care spokeswoman said: "We've already seen 900,000 appointments cancelled as a result of strikes and the co-ordinated action next week will create further disruption for patients and fellow NHS staff. We accepted the independent pay review body's recommendations in full, meaning doctors who started their hospital training this year are receiving a 10.3 per cent pay increase, with the average junior doctor getting 8.8 per cent. Consultants are receiving a 6 per cent pay rise … This pay award is final and the health and social care secretary is clear his door is open to discuss non-pay issues if the BMA call an end to this disruption."

Striking doctors are unworthy of public respect, leading article, page 31


Sir Keir Starmer met Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, at the Global Progress Action Summit in Montreal yesterday. Tony Blair was also among the delegates



Voters want bigger pensions — not lower taxes

George Grylls

Voters do not want Jeremy Hunt to cut taxes in his autumn statement but most believe that pensions should rise by 8.5 per cent, a poll suggests.

To the dismay of some Tory MPs, the chancellor said last week that tax cuts were "unlikely" because of persistent inflation. He said taxes were more likely to rise than fall until better growth could be delivered in the economy.

A YouGov poll for The Times suggests that his unwillingness to cut taxes is supported by the public and even more so among Tory voters.

The poll found that 41 per cent of voters believed cutting taxes would be the wrong thing to do and 32 per cent thought it would be right. The rest were uncertain.

Among Conservative voters 48 per cent thought it would be wrong to cut taxes, and 32 per cent that it would be right. However, the poll also suggested that most voters want pensions to increase by at least 8.5 per cent and benefits to rise in line with inflation.

Hunt is reportedly considering a temporary suspension of the triple lock, which ensures pensions rise by the highest of inflation, wage growth or 2.5 per cent.

Pensioners would receive an 8.5 per cent increase next year under the triple lock after this year's 10.1 per cent rise.

The poll found that 46 per cent of people believed Hunt should keep the triple lock this year and give pensioners an increase that matches inflation. Another 21 per cent thought pensions should rise by more than 8.5 per cent.

As Britain ages, the annual cost of pensions will be £135 billion by 2025, more than is spent on education, police and defence combined.

William Hague, the former Tory leader who is now a Times columnist, is among those who have called for the triple lock to be scrapped, and Labour has refused to give an undertaking to keep it if it wins the next election.

Hunt has little room to make spending commitments after the Office for Budget Responsibility found his plans met his fiscal rules by just £6.5 billion earlier this year, a record low margin. He is considering whether to keep benefit increases below the rate of inflation, a decision that would be controversial among Tory MPs. Liz Truss tried to do the same last year but abandoned her plans because of resistance from within the party.

In total 48 per cent of people thought benefits should rise at the same rate as inflation and 13 per cent thought the increases should exceed it, the YouGov poll found.

No 10 has been holding talks about scrapping inheritance tax as part of an offer to voters before the election next year, The Times reported this summer. Abolishing the tax would cost about £7 billion, much cheaper than cutting income tax, and would form part of an offer to voters in blue wall seats.

But Hunt has played down the likelihood of any imminent tax cuts in the autumn statement on November 22.

Asked whether he had more headroom for tax cuts than earlier this year by Bloomberg TV last week, Hunt said: "I think it's unlikely because since the spring budget, when the last numbers were published, we've seen inflation stickier than was forecast at the time and that means that interest payments are higher."

Taxing decisions

Q At the present time, would the Government cutting taxes be…

The right thing	32%
The wrong thing	41%
Don't know	27%

Q Should the state pension be…

Increased by more than 8.5%	21%
Increased by 8.5%	46%
Increased by less than 8.5%	12%
Kept at their current level	4%
None of these	2%
Don't know	15%

Source: YouGov/The Times. Sample: 2,049 adults on Sept 13 to 14

I'm closest to Obama, says Labour leader

George Grylls

Sir Keir Starmer says the US president he has spoken to "most frequently" is Barack Obama as he continues his diplomatic tour meeting past and present leaders.

Tomorrow the Labour leader will meet President Macron in Paris, having spent the weekend in Montreal at a conference for left-wingers hosted by Justin Trudeau, Canada's prime minister. Delegates included the former prime ministers Jacinda Ardern, of New Zealand, and Sanna Marin, of Finland, who now works for the Tony Blair Institute. Blair was also there.

Starmer is still awaiting an invitation from President Biden. In an interview with Politico, Starmer said that he and David Lammy, the shadow foreign secretary, held two hours of talks with Obama in 2021.

striking until government ends

GRAHAM HUGHES/AP



Truss to defend her time with swipe at 'dinner party' critics

George Grylls Political Correspondent

Liz Truss is due to give an impassioned defence of her economic legacy today, marking the forthcoming anniversary of her mini-budget and rebuking critics on "the London dinner party circuit".

The former prime minister will urge Rishi Sunak to cut corporation tax, abolish the windfall tax on oil and gas companies, raise the retirement age and delay the 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars.

Claiming that her ideas would deliver annual growth of 3 per cent, Truss will criticise the prime minister for failing to reform childcare and planning since coming into No 10. "I believe that the reason for the problems we have is the 25 years of economic consensus that have led us to this period of stagnation," she is expected to say. "I believe it is vital that we understand that and shatter that economic consensus if we are to avoid worse problems."

Last September 23, Truss and her chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, presented the "growth plan" to MPs. The aim was shock therapy to the economy with tax cuts and supply-side reform.

Announced shortly before the Conservative Party conference, her plan included scrapping the 45p top rate of income tax, cancelling a planned rise in corporation tax from 19 to 25 per cent, reversing increases in national insurance and freezing energy bills for up to two years at an estimated cost of £100 billion. It led to turbulence in the markets, Kwarteng's resignation and Truss's demise as prime minister after six and a half weeks.

Reflecting in a speech to the Institute for Government think tank, Truss will acknowledge that she was overly ambitious in trying to implement all her policies at once. "Some people said we were in too much of a rush. And it is certainly true that I didn't just try to fatten the pig on market day; I tried to rear the pig and slaughter it as well. I confess to that," she is expected to say.

But she will defend her policies and blame their failure on external factors. She will accuse the Office for Budget Responsibility, the government's independent forecaster, of leaking parts of her plans and attack the Bank of England for not raising interest rates sooner or regulating pension funds, a number of which were hours from collapse after the mini-budget.

Truss will castigate Tory MPs who did not support her plans to increase benefits in line with price rather than wage increases, something that would have saved taxpayers £35.5 billion over two years. "The anti-growth coalition is now a powerful force comprising the economic and political elite, corporatists, parts of the media and even a section of the Conservative parliamentary party. The policies I advocate simply aren't fashionable on the London dinner party circuit," she is due to say.

While Truss's rhetorical attacks on her critics will be strong, they will not match the obscenities she allegedly used when preparing for her party conference speech last year.

She accused BBC journalists of not understanding "who's paying their f***ing wages", according to *The Right to Rule*, a new book by Ben Riley-Smith, political editor of The Daily Telegraph. "It's plumbers in Dartford that are paying their wages," Truss is said to have told aides as she practised her speech. "You know, the ceramics workers in Stoke-on-Trent, the bridge-builders. These are the people paying their wages . . . The IMF, Labour, the Treasury officials, the BBC. Have they ever seen a tax rise they don't like?"

A spokesman said of her language: "Liz makes no apology for being passionate in defending British workers."

Starmer would seek new EU trade deal

George Grylls Political Correspondent

Sir Keir Starmer has promised a much closer trading relationship with the EU as he dismissed Tory claims that his party would sign up to a migrant quota scheme with the bloc.

The Labour leader said he owed it to his children to renegotiate the Brexit trade deal a week after announcing plans for more co-operation with the EU to tackle small boat crossings.

"Almost everyone recognises the deal [Boris] Johnson struck is not a good deal — it's far too thin," he told the Financial Times. "We have to make it work. That's not a question of going back in. But I refuse to accept that we can't make it work. I say that as a dad. I've got a 15-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl. I'm not going to let them grow up in a world where all I've got to say about their future is, 'It's going to be worse than it might have been'."

It has long been Labour policy to renegotiate the Brexit deal but Starmer's renewed willingness to discuss the relationship shows increasing confidence that Labour can re-engage with a debate it has largely avoided during the first years of his leadership.

Under Starmer's plans to reduce the number of small boats crossing the Channel, people smugglers would be treated like terrorists, meaning serious crime prevention orders could be used to restrict their movements and freeze their assets before they had been convicted. A Labour government would also abandon the "gimmick" policy of sending migrants to Rwanda, try to speed up asylum applications in Britain and look to strike a deal with the EU on data and intelligence sharing.

Rishi Sunak and Suella Braverman, the home secretary, have ridiculed Starmer's calls to restart negotiations with the EU and said the plans would turn the UK into a "dumping ground" for 100,000 migrants.

Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, said the plans had already fallen apart. "Labour won't take the tough but necessary action to stop the boats. Sir Keir doesn't have the stomach for this fight. His instinct is for open borders." Clarifying his position, Starmer said Labour would not sign up to the quotas agreement, despite previously accepting that there may need to be a "quid pro quo" with the EU.

"Let me be absolutely crystal clear about this, because the government has been pumping out complete garbage this week in terms of the numbers that they are suggesting," Starmer told Sky News. "There is obviously an EU quota system for EU members. Well, it's obvious we are not an EU member. This is why what the government's saying, it's been complete garbage."

Negotiations between EU members on a returns agreement based on a minimum annual quota of 30,000 migrants, or paying €20,000 for each person they do not accept, have broken down amid opposition from countries in eastern and central Europe.

Starmer will instead try for a bespoke deal on returning migrants. EU diplomats poured scorn on the idea, with one saying such hopes were "delusional".

Sunak doesn't understand red wall voters, Philip Collins, page 27

Backbencher casts doubt on plan urging votes at 16

George Grylls

Labour has insisted that lowering the voting age to 16 is the right thing to do despite criticism from a long-serving backbencher.

About 1.5 million people under 18 would be able to vote in general elections under plans agreed in the final draft of Labour's national policy forum. It would be the largest change to the electorate since 1969, when the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18.

The move is likely to benefit Labour given that younger voters disproportionately support the party. Labour has long promised to expand the franchise to those aged 16 and 17 and Jeremy Corbyn included the plans in his general election manifesto in 2019.

Among the wider electorate Labour has a 21-point lead over the Conservatives, a YouGov poll for the Times has found. But among voters aged 18-24, the closest age bracket to those who would be given the vote, it widens to 43 points. In total, 57 per cent of those aged 18-24 said they would vote Labour at the election compared with 14 per cent for the Conservatives.

In Wales and Scotland, voters aged 16 and 17 can take part in local and national polls. In Scotland the franchise was extended in 2015 and in Wales in 2019. A study by academics at Sheffield and Edinburgh universities found that lowering the voting age in Scotland had resulted in young people being more likely to turn out as they grew older.

Graham Stringer, the Labour MP for Blackley & Broughton, said he opposed the move. "We have to draw the line somewhere on the voting age, and I simply believe most youngsters at 16 are not mature enough to exercise that right," he told The Mail on Sunday. "Were the Labour leader to put this forward, it would smack of self-interest [as] young people are more likely to vote Labour or Liberal Democrat."

CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES



Closing statement Meghan and Harry made an appearance at the closing ceremony of the Invictus Games in Düsseldorf, Germany, at the weekend

Former spy chief in plea to tighten election loopholes

Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter

Parliament is at risk of being targeted by China and Russia because of the government's failure to close loopholes in laws covering election donations, the former head of MI5 has warned.

Lord Evans of Weardale said the UK was vulnerable to interference because arrangements had not been tightened. Now chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, Evans said calls for reform had been met with "very strong resistance", adding: "I think we should have an electoral finance system that is difficult for a hostile state to misuse. There is a problem here. Other countries have experienced it. Now is a good opportunity for us to tighten any loopholes."

His intervention came after the revelation that Chris Cash, a Tory parliamentary researcher, had been arrested on suspicion of spying for Beijing. Cash, 28, has denied all the allegations.

The Times also revealed that MI5 advised the Tory party in 2021 to remove two people from its prospective candidates list because of ties to China, while a government report said Beijing was targeting civil servants and military personnel with lucrative job offers as part of a "prolific" spying campaign.

Evans, who ran the security service from 2007 to 2013, said: "It is clear that there is at least concern that a number of foreign states — certainly Russia and China — might be trying to improperly influence democratic processes. We need to take action [and] one of the ways we should be doing that is tightening election finance arrangements."

In a report on election finance in 2021, Evans recommended tightening requirements to identify the "true source" of political donations and "reduce the potential for foreign money to influence UK elections". The standards committee said that donations should only be made from profits generated in the UK and recommended tighter rules on unincorporated associations which were a "weak point" in the regime.

The government has insisted, however, that the rules are strong enough despite ongoing concerns about money from donors with links to Russia.

In May, Evans supported a Lords amendment to the National Security Bill, which has since replaced the Official Secrets Act, that would have required political parties to carry out due diligence on the true source of donations. The change was defeated by the government.

Cleverly: I don't regret China visit

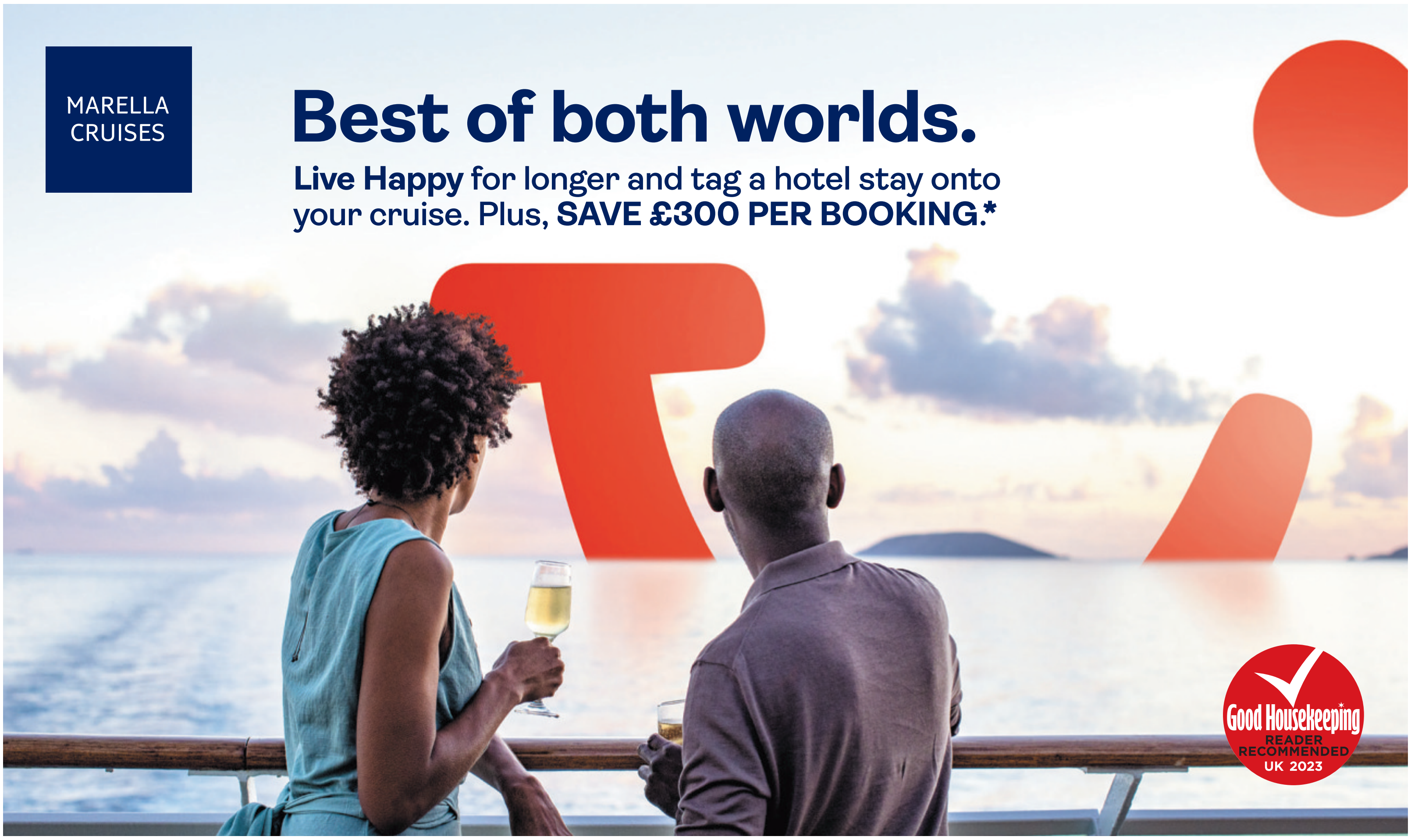
George Grylls Political Correspondent

James Cleverly has admitted the UK's relationship with China is "challenging" but said he does not regret going to Beijing earlier this month.

The foreign secretary defended holding diplomatic talks with China following the arrest of Chris Cash, 28, the parliamentary worker accused of espionage for Beijing. Cash has denied all the allegations. Cleverly refused to say whether he knew about the arrest or raised it with his Chinese counterparts during the talks.

He told Sky News he had no regrets about his meetings. "When there is a difficult relationship — and this is a challenging and difficult relationship — it is more important rather than less important that you maintain those face-to-face communications," he said.

"China is a country with which we have to engage. It's important we engage for a load of areas, to avoid miscalculations and errors, to make sure that messages, particularly the most difficult messages, are communicated straight to the heart of those respective governments."



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Charities cleared to enter policy fray

Nadeem Badshah

Charities can campaign on issues that cover "sensitive or politically divisive ground", the Charity Commission has said.

The commission, which regulates the voluntary sector, is to issue guidance this week stating that charities are entitled to campaign robustly on social media providing that they have the support of their trustee boards, keep within the law, and act with "respect and tolerance".

Orlando Fraser, the chairman of the body, called it "supportive guidance" that clarified the law. The move comes after the controversy over a post on Twitter/X by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) last month that accused the prime minister and other ministers of being "liars". The charity later apologised.

Fraser told The Guardian: "I will robustly defend charities' right to campaign lawfully, even where such campaigning covers sensitive or politically divisive ground."

He added the RSPB incident was an example of what the commission would like charities to guard against when using social media.

The sector has faced mounting criticism of late from politicians over issues such as race, immigration and the climate crisis.

Last month Suella Braverman, the home secretary, called some refugee charities "politically motivated activists masquerading as humanitarians".

Lee Anderson, the Tory party deputy chair, was condemned in February for saying Calais refugee charities were "just as bad as people smugglers".

Fraser, who was appointed to the role in April 2022, said: "I would discourage people outside the sector from attacking charities for being too 'woke' because it has no meaning for us in regulatory terms."

The new guidance also advises charities to act "reasonably and responsibly" online, to conduct themselves with "respect and tolerance" and adopt clear social media policies for staff and volunteers to follow.

Fraser added: "I believe that charities have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to lead the way by modelling a better kind of public discourse than the aggression we sadly see in party politics."

Research last year found that charities labelled "woke" and subjected to criticism by right-wing politicians experienced a rise in public support as a result. In the survey, 78 per cent of campaigners said they felt that politicians were hostile to civil society campaigning, up from 63 per cent the previous year.

A majority felt that attacks by politicians and the media posed a threat to charities' right to speak out and campaign, according to the Sheila McKechnie Foundation survey.

However, charities that campaigned on issues including race, immigration and the environment also found that the attacks resulted in public support for social activism. A third of charities said they were now "more likely to speak out".

Examples of criticism included the National Trust being described as "Marxist" for publishing a report highlighting the slave-trade links of some of its historical properties.

The race equality think tank the Runnymede Trust was accused of having a "political agenda" and the children's charity Barnardo's of promoting "ideological dogma". All three were investigated by the Charity Commission after a backbench group of Conservative MPs complained that they had breached charity laws. In each case they were cleared.

One survey respondent wrote: "The attacks have made us invest a lot of time in getting our engagement right. We felt like we were on a tightrope and some powerful people were willing us to fall. However, the strategic review that resulted probably made us more focused and stronger."

Welcome to the auction house

A former pastry chef turned antiques collector who turned his flat into a museum is now auctioning off the entire contents (Claudia Joseph writes).

Over decades of collecting, Peter Hone — also a master plaster caster — has filled his home in Notting Hill, west London, with hundreds of sculptures, architectural fragments and even a royal umbrella.

Instead of moving the 343 items on sale to Lay's Auctioneers in Penzance, Cornwall, Hone is holding private viewings at his home.

The auction includes a bust of George I, attributed to John van Nost, which is estimated to raise up to £8,000, and a plaster bust of the young Queen Victoria by the 19th-century sculptor John Gibson, expected to fetch £2,500 to £3,500.

Other highlights in the auction include an award that Susannah York, the actress, won at the 1972 Cannes Film Festival and an umbrella that belonged to Queen Victoria's son Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught.

"I'm selling some of my favourite things, like the lead bust of George I, which is very rare, and the bust of Queen Victoria," said Hone, 82.

Hone, who grew up in an orphanage, trained as a pastry chef before working for British Railways. His interest in antiques began when he rented a shop on Camden Passage in Islington, north London, selling antique four-poster beds to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, among others. Hone auctioned some of his collection at Christie's seven years ago, making £1.2 million. It took two cranes a total of five days to remove the 143 artefacts. "The only thing which didn't sell was the royal dinner service made for HRH Augustus Frederick Duke of Cambridge, which is now in this sale," he said. The auction will take place at Lay's on October 12. Viewings will be held at Hone's flat and can be booked at davidlay.co.uk/appointment.

LAY'S AUCTIONEERS





The home of Peter Hone, above, houses the items which are to be sold, including a George III pearlware vase

Doctor fears more Lucy Letby victims

Nadeem Badshah

Lucy Letby, Britain's worst child serial killer, might have killed three more babies and tried to murder another 15, a paediatrician who gave evidence at her trial has alleged.

Dr Dewi Evans, who gave expert evidence in court in the neo-natal nurse's trial, said he had suspicions over the cases of five children who survived.

He also claimed he had identified a further ten surviving children who could have been harmed. He said all were likely to have had their breathing tubes tampered with. He told the Daily Mail's *The Trial of Lucy Letby* podcast: "Initially I looked at 32 cases and there are seven of those [not part of the trial] that need more scrutiny.

"These babies had illnesses that were life-threatening and three of them died. But we need to look at them to see if they were placed in harm's way as well. They were poorly, so it may be impossible to show beyond reasonable doubt whether they were the victim of inflicted harm. There are seven cases we need to look at more thoroughly."

Evans said that he would bring those cases to the attention of Cheshire police.

Letby, 33, was given a whole-life order last month after she was convicted of the murders of seven babies and the attempted murders of six others at the Countess of Chester Hospital's neonatal unit in 2015 and 2016. It emerged last week that her legal team had formally lodged a bid to challenge her convictions at the court of appeal.

Evans said that after her arrest in 2018 he was asked to review the notes of another 48 babies, not included in the trial, and found concerns with 18.

Arrest over village murders

Kaya Burgess

Police are working to recover the remains of two people in their seventies after a woman in Essex was charged with murder.

Virginia McCullough, 35, was arrested on Friday in Great Baddow, near Chelmsford, two days after officers had been called with "reports of concern for the welfare of two people".

McCullough is due to appear at Chelmsford magistrates' court today. Local reports suggested that the two missing individuals were known to her.

A three-storey end-of-terrace house in Great Baddow was cordoned off by police with a blue tent erected in front of the door.

Essex police said: "As a result of the extensive work carried out by a dedicated investigative team, our strong belief based on all the evidence available is that the two people in question are no longer alive. The Crown Prosecution Service is in agreement with this assessment. As a result of that work, we have been authorised by the CPS to charge [McCullough] with two counts of murder."

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Fight against infertility ‘epidemic’

A pioneering scientist is on a mission to make women think about their biological clocks earlier, reports Eleanor Hayward

Having worked her way to the top of the field of reproductive science in her twenties, the question of fertility has always been both professional and personal for Dr Helen O’Neill.

“On a daily basis I would be faced with that devastating graph which shows ovarian reserve — the number of eggs — decline so dramatically over time, and the sharpest drop being after 30,” she said.

“I remember staring at it at a conference, counting the years ahead of me. Thinking, I’m not in a relationship, I need to find someone, I need to be going out with them for a normal enough amount of time so we can procreate together. It felt so unfair.”

O’Neill, who is a lecturer in molecular genetics at University College London and has a PhD in stem cell biology, described the realisation “that biology — despite my dedication to it — might pull the carpet from under my feet”.

This anxiety at being confronted by your own biological clock will be familiar to millions of young women. It prompted O’Neill, 38, to form Hertility Health in an attempt to fill the void of information for women grappling with the simple question of “Can I have a baby?”.

The company, now valued at £90 million, offers at-home hormone testing and online consultations with the aim of tackling the “silent epidemic” of infertility.

“Our goal at Hertility is to bring infertility from one in six couples, to one in 100,” O’Neill said.

The tests have been validated by UK medical regulators and screen for 18 reproductive health conditions, including endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome — which each affect about one in ten women, and can impact fertility. Demand for the service has been huge, with 122,000 women signing up last year. Nearly half of those who completed the £149 hormone and fertility test received an indicative diagnosis, with the option of accessing further specialist care so they can get treatment and guidance “before it is too late”.

Inadequate NHS provision means common women’s health conditions are often not picked up for years, if at all. Meanwhile, couples struggling to get pregnant are only eligible for NHS fertility tests or treatment such as IVF after struggling to conceive for 12 months, which makes no sense when “the most precious entity is time”.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Dr Helen O’Neill is sceptical about the push for egg freezing, being offered as a staff perk by more employers

“Infertility is like a tumour, the longer you leave it, the worse it gets,” said O’Neill.

As part of a more proactive approach, she believes that women should be encouraged to think about fertility and be “fluent in their bodies and hormones” from the age of 18.

“It has almost become unfashionable to even dare say that a woman has an innate biological desire to know about her fertility,” O’Neill said. “It’s such a waste that people spend so much of their fertile years at a disconnect with their bodies.”

Better education about how to conceive is also required to reduce infertility rates. Analysis by Hertility, based on data from 141,000 women, found that nearly half keep drinking alcohol while trying for a baby. One in four continue to smoke, nearly one in ten do recreational drugs, and most do not exercise regularly.

“If you gave somebody a rule, which is no alcohol, no smoking, it would be much easier for us to then troubleshoot why they’re not getting pregnant,” said O’Neill.

O’Neill is sceptical of the trend for egg freezing, which is being offered as a benefit by growing number of companies including Facebook and LinkedIn. “Some companies will pay £27,000 per employee for fertility treatment. There is a subtle underlying message that, by choosing not to freeze your eggs, you are either being careless or not prioritising your career. Instead, why wouldn’t workplaces say to a woman in their 20s or 30s, ‘We’re here to support you and make sure you do not fall into the trap of needing fertility treatment,” she said.

The demand for Hertility’s at-home testing reflects a huge gap in women’s health provision from the NHS, with more than 600,000 women in England now on record waiting lists for gynaecological services. The company also runs clinical trials and funds research into women’s health, which has historically been chronically underfunded.

It was founded by three women: O’Neill, her identical twin sister Deirdre O’Neill and Dr Natalie Getreu. Between them they have had three babies since launching Hertility in 2019. “We’ve managed to build a company that is £90 million in value. Yet there is still this idea that having a baby is almost a nail in the coffin in your career,” said O’Neill, who has a four-year-old daughter.

“We are a team full of people with kids and babies. We actively promote having your child with you. There are a lot of babies on boobs and babies on shoulders in meetings and on calls.”

GMC deletes ‘women’ from forms

Kat Lay Health Editor

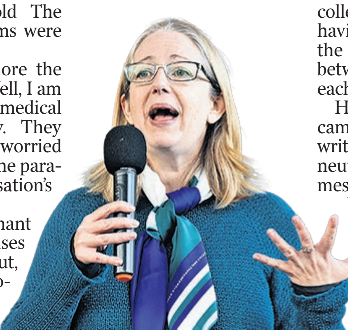
The General Medical Council (GMC) has been criticised for removing references to “mothers” from a maternity document.

The GMC also refers to people generally, rather than to “women” in its internal policy document on menopause.

An anonymous employee told The Sunday Telegraph that both forms were updated earlier this year.

“It’s a concerted effort to ignore the existence of women,” she said. “Well, I am a woman. It’s not appropriate for a medical organisation to ignore biology. They should stick to science. People are worried about putting their heads above the parapet … They are having the organisation’s ‘woke’ ideology forced on them.”

The internal guidance for pregnant employees at the regulator now uses gender-neutral terms throughout, replacing phrases such as “surrogate mother” with “surrogate parent”. The GMC’s maternity policy says: “This policy applies to all staff members who are pregnant. If you are the surrogate parent this policy applies.”



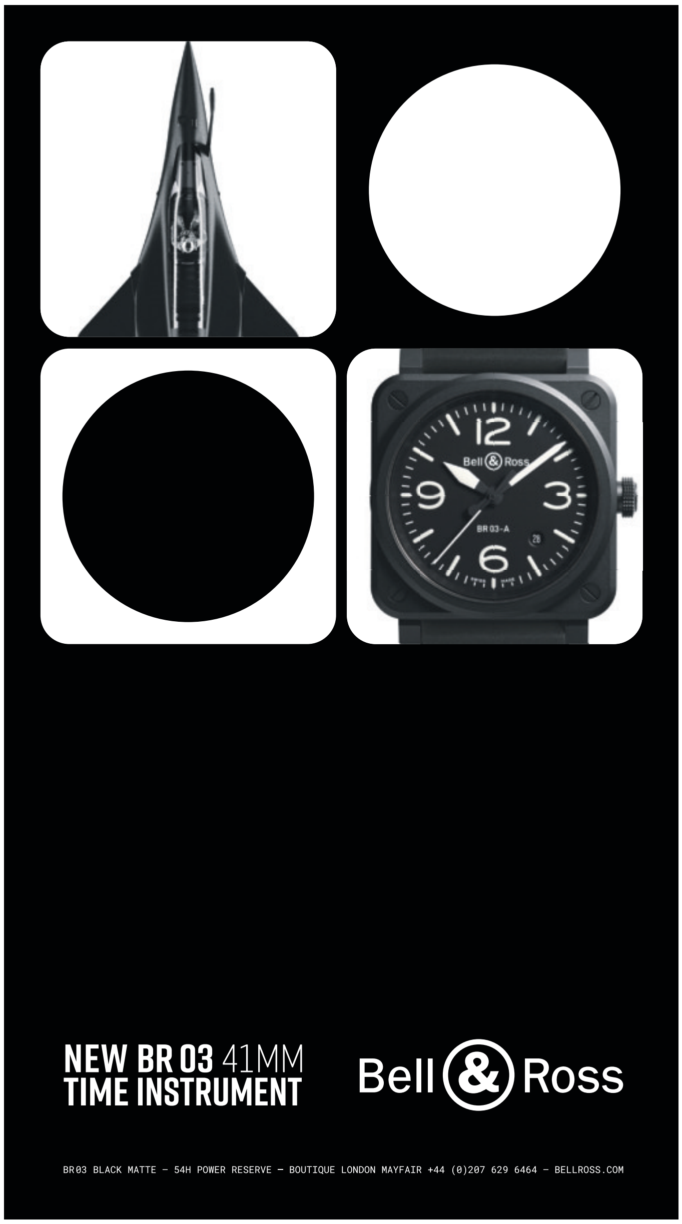
Helen Joyce says the GMC sends a hostile message to all women by revising its maternity policy in gender-neutral terms

An earlier version, dated April 2015, read: “If you are the surrogate mother this policy will apply.”

Its separate menopause policy refers to menopause as “a natural event in some colleagues’ lives during which they stop having periods. It usually occurs between the ages of 45 and 55 and typically lasts between four and eight years. However, each person’s experience will differ”.

Helen Joyce, director of advocacy at campaign group Sex Matters, said: “By rewriting its maternity policy to be gender-neutral, the GMC is sending a hostile message to women in medicine. Sex-based language needs to be reinstated.”

A GMC spokeswoman said: “We have clearly titled policies for our staff, including maternity, paternity and adoption policies. We review these regularly in consultation with our staff.”





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20mph limits for almost half the British population

Tom Witherow, George Sandeman

Close to half of Britons live in places where 20mph limits are in force or are expected, campaigners said, as Wales introduced the limit in built-up areas.

The scheme to reduce the default speed limit for residential areas from 30mph came into force yesterday, affecting 7,700 miles of road. Conservatives said that the plans were "anti-worker, anti-road and anti-motorist", but Welsh Labour ministers said that it would cut pollution and save lives.

The scheme meant changing 30,000 road signs but a consultation found that more people were against the new limit than in support of it.

The latest data from 20's Plenty, a campaign group, says that 28 million people live in places where 20mph is, or will be, the default for residential areas. This includes 20 million in England, 3.3 million in Wales and five million in Scotland, where the change has been included in the pact between the SNP and Scottish Greens. The UK population is 67 million.

"It started off with a few progressive authorities and then more and more have seen it's possible," Rod King, the founder of 20's Plenty, said. "Initially it tended to be the metropolitan boroughs, but now the shire counties are changing their positions — Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire are very keen, the Scottish borders, and even Cornwall is implementing it in towns and villages."

He added: "None of the 61 highway authorities in England that have set 20mph have moved it back. Once people experience 20mph as a limit outside their house, in the places where they shop, and where their children go to school, they don't want to change."

In Wales the opposition has been driven by Conservative politicians seeking a rift comparable to the ultra-low emission zone in London, which helped them to retain Boris Johnson's west London seat.

Yesterday Natasha Asghar, the Welsh shadow minister for transport, said: "[Ministers] really ignored the voice of the people. Only 6,000 people took part in the Welsh government's initial plans when they started. Over 100,000 have signed petitions — people have protested."

A petition to the Welsh parliament against the rule in May garnered more than 21,000 signatories, while another on change.org attracted 71,000.

"As politicians, as human beings, none of us want to see the loss of lives but, at the same time, this should have been a better-thought-out policy," Asghar told the BBC. "None of us are going to be opposing 20mph limits being outside of schools or hospitals."

Penny Mordaunt, leader of the Commons, last week described the new 20mph speed-limit on residential roads in Wales as "insane", adding: "They have ignored businesses and they have ignored the public."

Hauliers have said they will drive at 19mph even in places with higher speed limits while activist groups asked businesses to record how much time was lost to the new rules.

The Wales secretary claimed that the new limit would cost the Welsh economy £4.5 billion a year. David TC Davies said: "Labour has now imposed its absurd 20mph blanket. They've also banned all new roads from being built and want to charge for using some."

But Lee Waters, the Welsh deputy minister for climate change, said the government had been building up to introducing the new limit for four years. "We're not rushing into this. We've carefully looked at the evidence," he said. "It will save lives, it will reduce casualties, it will improve quality of life."

He added that drivers would start to see the benefits as they got used to the lower limit. "You're moving slower. Your reaction time, your thinking time is increased. You're far more aware of your environment and also, people have said to me, it's far less stressful."

The government said the costs were "outweighed" by £92 million annual savings to the NHS because of fewer accidents and that the new limit would add only 63 seconds to average trips.

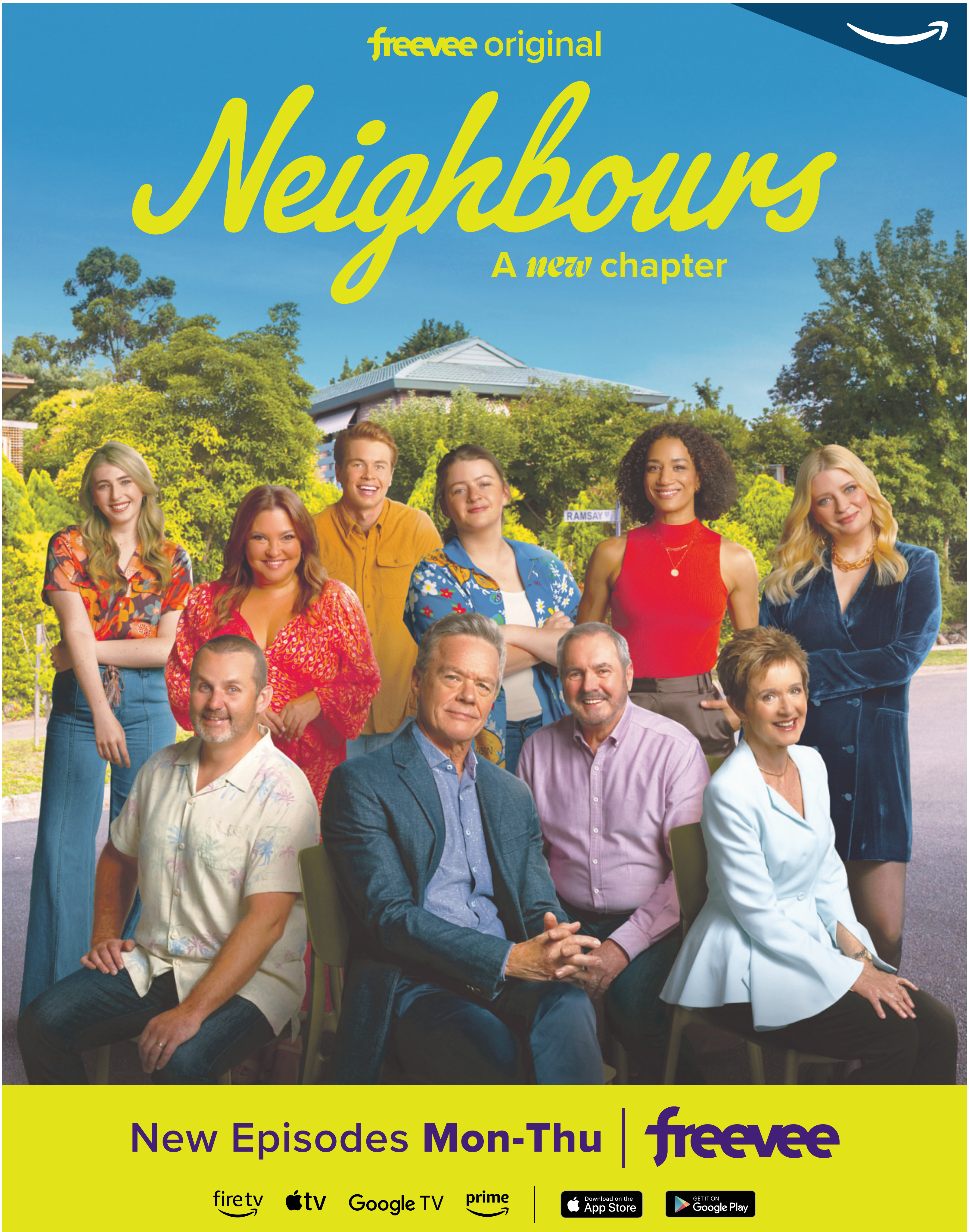
This default speed limit is unnecessary and oppressive, leading article, page 31

DAN GRIFFITHS/MOONHEAD MEDIA



Going downhill fast Gee Atherton, a daredevil cyclist, races down Italy's Dolomite mountains




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XL bully dogs are taught to attack

Rogue owners are using steroids, treadmills and bouncy castles to create mauling machines, **Charlie Parker** writes

In one clip, a man wielding a whip lashes at a barking American XL bully dog in the middle of a London park, provoking it to lunge and bite hard on his padded sleeve. In another a dog is set loose in a children's playground and dashes through a tunnel built for toddlers before locking on to a trainer's arm.

As the government moves to ban the breed after a spate of maulings last week, The Times has learnt of reckless owners using leather sticks, steroids and treadmills to exploit the strength and aggression of their pets.

City parks, basketball courts and street markets are treated like training grounds by young inexperienced owners, who broadcast their "bite work" sessions to followers on social media.

In rural areas XL bully trainers have constructed obstacle courses using caravans, bouncy castles and agitation tables. The sites are used to teach big breeds how to attack people even through car windows and to withstand stress.

Many of the exercises mimic methods used by police forces to train service dogs for drugs or firearms raids, according to a former handler for the Metropolitan Police.

Rogue breeders, meanwhile, have been administering steroids to XL bullies and profiting from the sale of "bully bodybuilder" supplements, feeding a social media fixation on immensely strong dogs.

Ministers have promised to outlaw the ownership, sale or breeding of the dogs by the end of this year. The move was announced on Friday after two children were savaged and a man was mauled to death by XL bullies. The attacks took place in the West Midlands in the space of a week.

The RSPCA, former police service dog trainers and independent specialists who saw the videos suggested that trainers could be committing animal welfare and public order offences.

Armed with whip-like "agitation" sticks and dog-bite sleeves that can be bought cheaply online, amateur behaviourists have been training dogs in busy London locations. In parks and playgrounds believed to be in Peckham, south London, XL bully trainers filmed themselves riling up dogs tied to posts. One video shows a man waving a crutch at a lunging dog that chases him away as a woman walks close by.

Much of the material is posted by users who claim, with pseudonyms, that they are training "protection dogs". Police handlers say that unlike German shepherds, for example, XL bullies are too temperamental for such a role.

One trainer with the username BiteWorkBully, who took videos of his dogs biting in a playground and lunging up at a man in a balaclava at Dalston market, east London, wrote: "We're working on family protection dogs! None of my XL bullys bite children! I also guarantee that if an assailant attacks you or your family with one of my dogs, and they leave untouched I'll personally give your money back."

Another trainer, p.securityk9s, posted clips of XL bully dogs ripping bite sleeves off and said his dogs would go for people if commanded.

In the Midlands and northern counties, aggressive XL bully dogs feature in glossy slow-motion films made by users with tens of thousands of followers, showing them growling on agitation boxes as small whips are cracked in their direction. Other videos focus on their stamina, with the dogs filmed sprinting on treadmills.

Some of the activities could be considered legitimate canine control work for dog competitions that owners say are crucial for providing an outlet for larger civilian-owned breeds. Schutzhund, for instance, is a dog sport that tests an animal's tracking, obedience and protection skills.

However, Rob Alleyne, a trainer with more than 40 years of experience, said he suspected that many bully dogs were "being trained as weapons", with sport and protection as a front. He has often had to deal with rogue owners who approach him and ask him to "teach my dog to become dangerous".

"There are two factions," Alleyne said. "Responsible owners who like big dogs and will get licences and will go to dog training classes — and the other group who want it as a status symbol and see ownership as a way to hold off the police."

Alleyne said he was aware of many dogs being given steroids and growth hormones. It is common for owners to feed their pets on diets of raw meat, based on a myth that higher protein levels will make them more aggressive.

"What these people are looking for is a dog you won't mess with. They want it to look disproportionate, they want it to look huge," he said. "One man I spoke to was feeding his dog blood from his local butcher because he believed that would give it a taste for blood."

The move to ban the breed has sparked fierce debate between breeders, dog behaviourists and politicians. The Dog Control Coalition, which includes the RSPCA, Dogs Trust, Kennel Club and British Veterinary Association, has instead called for tougher measures against irresponsible owners. More than 425,000 people have signed a petition to MPs urging the government not to ban XL bullys.

Groups that campaigned for the ban, including the families of victims of attacks, blame the breed for more than half of fatal dog attacks last year.

The RSPCA said: "Only positive, reward-based training should be used, and harsh, potentially painful or frightening methods should be avoided."

Halting dog attacks, letters, page 30







The Instagram page BiteWorkBully showed dogs training at a street market and in a playground



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Dramatic loss of sea ice around Antarctica

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

The sea ice surrounding Antarctica is at its lowest level for September since records began, satellite imagery shows.

Scientists have described the degree of melting as "almost mind-blowing".

The continent is covered in a sheet of ice that is 1.3 miles thick on average. The surrounding ocean carries floating ice across as much as seven million square miles during the southern winter from June to September.

Satellite data shows the sea ice surrounding Antarctica covers an area almost 600,000 square miles less than the September average. The amount of missing ice could cover an area seven times the size of mainland Britain. "It's so far outside anything we've seen, it's almost mind-blowing," Walter Meier, who works for the National Snow and Ice Data Center, told the BBC.

Scientists are trying to understand why sea ice coverage has dropped so dramatically. Antarctica was previously thought to be relatively resistant to global warming. Until 2016, sea ice had been spreading around Antarctica.

But in three of the previous seven years, the amount of sea ice has broken records, falling to the lowest levels seen since satellites started gathering data in the 1970s.

Scientists are considering whether an unusual combination of natural factors might have caused this year's recession and how much of a role human-driven climate change is playing.

Dr Robbie Mallett, of Manitoba University in Canada, said: "There is a chance that it's a really freak expression of natural variability."

DR ROBBIE MALLET



Dr Robbie Mallett, of Manitoba University, said there are "very good reasons to be worried" about current levels of sea ice

He added, however, that a shortage of historical data made it difficult to analyse long-term trends. Some troubling events have been recorded in recent years on the icy continent. In March last year, temperatures in east Antarctica were at minus 10C when they should have been closer to minus 50C. For Antarctica, this could be considered an extreme heatwave.

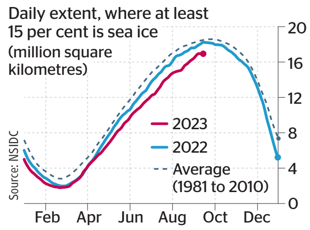
Professor Martin Siegert, of Exeter University, said that when he started studying the Antarctic 30 years ago, scientists thought extreme weather events could never happen there. He wondered if warming caused by humans could be "awakening this giant of Antarctica". Siegert said this would be "an absolute disaster for the world".

The expanse of ice in the southern region helps to regulate temperatures, reflecting back some of the sun's energy.

Since the 1990s, loss of land ice on Antarctica has contributing 7.2mm to ocean levels. Much is unknown about the sea ice around Antarctica but Mallett said there were "very, very good reasons to be worried". He added: "It's potentially a really alarming sign of Antarctic climate change that hasn't been there for the last 40 years and is only just emerging."

A paper published this month in the journal Nature said observations "suggest ocean warming has played a role in pushing Antarctic sea ice into a new low-extent state". It found that the

Chilling figures



"multi-decade increase in Antarctic sea ice" had "peaked" between 2014 and the spring of 2016.

Mallett said of the continent's shroud of sea ice: ""We can see how much more vulnerable it is."

Helsinki's icebreaker lab, page 34



Historian 'defiles the Empire with iron theft claim'

Tom Witherow

A scholar has been accused of "undermining the history of Britain" without evidence after she claimed in a paper that an English ironware producer stole his invention from slaves.

The History and Technology journal is investigating Dr Jenny Bulstrode after she claimed that Henry Cort, who is credited with pioneering iron-making techniques, stole a process for making the metal from Jamaicans.

Bulstrode, a history lecturer at University College London (UCL), said Cort's method for turning scrap pig iron into high-quality bar iron was "theft … from black metallurgists in Jamaica". She said that the patent application represented "false mirrors for imperial eyes to picture themselves as they built their institutional lies".

In an article that Bulstrode wrote with another academic, she argued that "slavery stole Africans' ideas as well as their bodies" and "reparations should reflect this". Caribbean nations have demanded trillions of pounds from European countries and institutions, including the royal family.

Leading scholars, however, have claimed that there is "absolutely no evidence" for Bulstrode's claims and accused her of "ideologising history" to further her career.

Professor Lawrence Goldman, of Oxford University, said Bulstrode had "constructed a story that is literally too good to be true … almost a fairytale".

He told The Sunday Telegraph: "It's … evidence of how reason and facts are being suspended in the search for ever more ways to undermine the history of Britain and its empire. We must give Jenny Bulstrode every chance to explain herself. We must also expect University College London … to investigate what has gone on."

Oliver Jelf, a historian who has written about Cort, analysed Bulstrode's primary sources in a rival academic journal and said they showed "absolutely no evidence" for her theory. He said that it was "almost impossibly unlikely" that the 76 "black metallurgists … transformed scrap metal into valuable bar iron". Jelf added that Bulstrode went "beyond reasonable inference" when she spoke on a podcast called *The Context of White Supremacy*.

He concluded: "The principal primary sources reproduced in the appendix do not support the contention that Cort acquired the process from enslaved black metalworkers."

Bulstrode insisted that she used shipping records, old newspapers and evidence from Jamaica in her research, which was reviewed by peers. "The comments raised are now being reviewed by the journal," she said. "Should I be asked, or where new evidence arises, I will work with the journal to strengthen the evidence or add any addendums as is usual in academic discourse."

A spokesman for the publisher Taylor & Francis said: "There is currently an investigation into the criticisms being carried out by History and Technology and the Taylor & Francis ethics and integrity team, following our usual processes. Since that investigation is ongoing, we are not able to provide any further comment on the issue".

A UCL spokesman said: "We are committed to maintaining and safeguarding the highest standards of integrity in all areas of research and take any allegations of research impropriety very seriously. We understand the journal has launched a review process and we will await the outcome of this."

JAMES MANNING/PA



Girls aloud (at last) Since the 14th century men and boys have been singing in the choir at St Margaret's, which is next to Westminster Abbey and is known as the parish church of parliament, but a choir for girls aged 11-17 has now been formed

Tech companies urged to label AI content clearly

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Tech companies will have to label artificial intelligence content to combat "deepfakes" under plans being considered by Ofcom.

The rise of AI image and video generators has led to concerns about disinformation and scams online.

Recent examples include AI-generated pictures of Donald Trump and scams that have used the likeness of Martin Lewis, the money expert.

Rishi Sunak is in favour of forcing companies to use watermarking technology that labels AI content when it is generated using their tools.

The watermark is embedded in the image or video using cryptography, which is hard to remove.

Now Ofcom is exploring requiring companies to use the technology as part of its new powers under the Online Safety Bill.

It comes as Ian Russell, the father of Molly Russell — who took her own life after viewing suicide content online — called on Ofcom to be "bold and act fast" once the bill becomes law.

The legislation, due to become law next month, is designed to reduce the amount of harmful content online.

In a submission to the House of Lords Communications and Digital Select Committee, the regulator says "the adoption of GenAI [generative AI] by online services could also increase risks for users. By making it easier to create sophisticated content, GenAI tools could also lower the barriers to entry for bad actors intent on causing harm".

Ofcom adds that it is researching methods to identify deepfakes, such as through digital watermarking. A digital signature developed by the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity is already being used by Adobe, while Google DeepMind has unveiled its SynthID watermark.

The EU has also called on companies that generate AI content to label it and will require social media companies to do so under the Digital Services Act.

Russell has called on Ofcom to take action once the bill is passed, which is expected to be next month. "It has to move fast and be bold and enact the clauses set out in the bill to make the online world safer," he said.

An Ofcom spokesman said: "After the bill receives royal assent we'll set out the first set of standards that we'll expect tech firms to meet."

ChatGPT fakery casts doubts on research papers, page 25



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Heavy horse This 12ft copper sculpture beside the A3 in Surrey is a smaller stand-in produced by Nic Fiddian-Green while he reworks his 22ft original, intended as a monument to a more rural life in the Oat Belt of southern England, at his studio

Last orders as pubs close at faster rate across the country

George Sandeman

The number of pubs being demolished or converted for other uses has risen by more than 50 per cent, figures show.

In the three months to June 30 there were 230 pubs that disappeared from communities in England and Wales. In the preceding quarter the figure stood at 153. Among the uses for converted pubs are housing, offices and nurseries.

Prior to it burning down last month, The Crooked House pub, near Wolverhampton, had been earmarked for closure and conversion. Marston's brewery said it had sold the 18th century pub to a "private buyer for alternative use".

The 383 demolishments or conversions in the first half of 2023 is also a sharp acceleration compared with the figures for last year when 386 pubs suffered the same fate.

The overall number of pubs in England and Wales, including vacant ones, now stands at 39,404.

The statistics were compiled for the government by Altus Group, which specialises in commercial real estate. Alex Probyn, its president of property tax, called on Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, to cut business rates for the sector in his autumn statement in November. Companies that pay business rates — the property tax affecting those on the high street — face an inflation-linked increase next April. This is expected to add more than 6 per cent to bills next year.

Probyn said: "With energy costs up 80 per cent year-on-year in a low-growth, high-inflation and high-interest-rates environment, the last thing pubs need is an average business rates hike of £12,385 next year."

Pubs currently get a 75 per cent discount on their business rates bills for the 2023-24 tax year, up to a cap of £110,000 per business. However, this is not set to continue in the next tax year.

In January JD Wetherspoon said its sales were below pre-pandemic levels and had been closing or selling 40 surplus pubs. It reported that like-for-like sales rose 13.1 per cent in the 25 weeks to January 22, but were 0.7 per cent lower than the same period before the pandemic. Tim Martin, its founder, said: "During lockdown, dyed-in-the-wool pub-goers, many for the first time, filled their fridges with supermarket beer and it has proved to be a momentous challenge to persuade them to return to the more salubrious environment of the saloon bar."

Stonegate, Britain's biggest pubs company, said in February that it was looking to sell 700 to 800 of its 4,492 pubs as it tried to reduce its £3 billion debt. However, in April the executive chairman of City Pub Group, which has 43 premium sites in southern England and Wales, said his business was "now in the best shape it's ever been".



The Crooked House, a Black Country landmark, burned down after its sale

New hope on youth obesity

Kaya Burgess Science Reporter

Childhood obesity can be nipped in the bud as early as four by helping parents promote healthier eating habits from pre-school onwards, research suggests.

Researchers say very young children should be involved in cooking so that they understand when meals will be served rather than being free to snack.

Scientists in Sweden said previous studies had not examined the long-term impact of providing extra support to families. They followed 171 children aged four to six who were diagnosed as obese. They and their families were divided into groups receiving support ranging from dietary advice from doctors to counselling for parents and, in a third group, follow-up phone calls.

The treatments lasted a year, with families in the second and third groups benefitting the most. The study, by the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, was published in the International Journal of Obesity.

IN THE TIMES TOMORROW



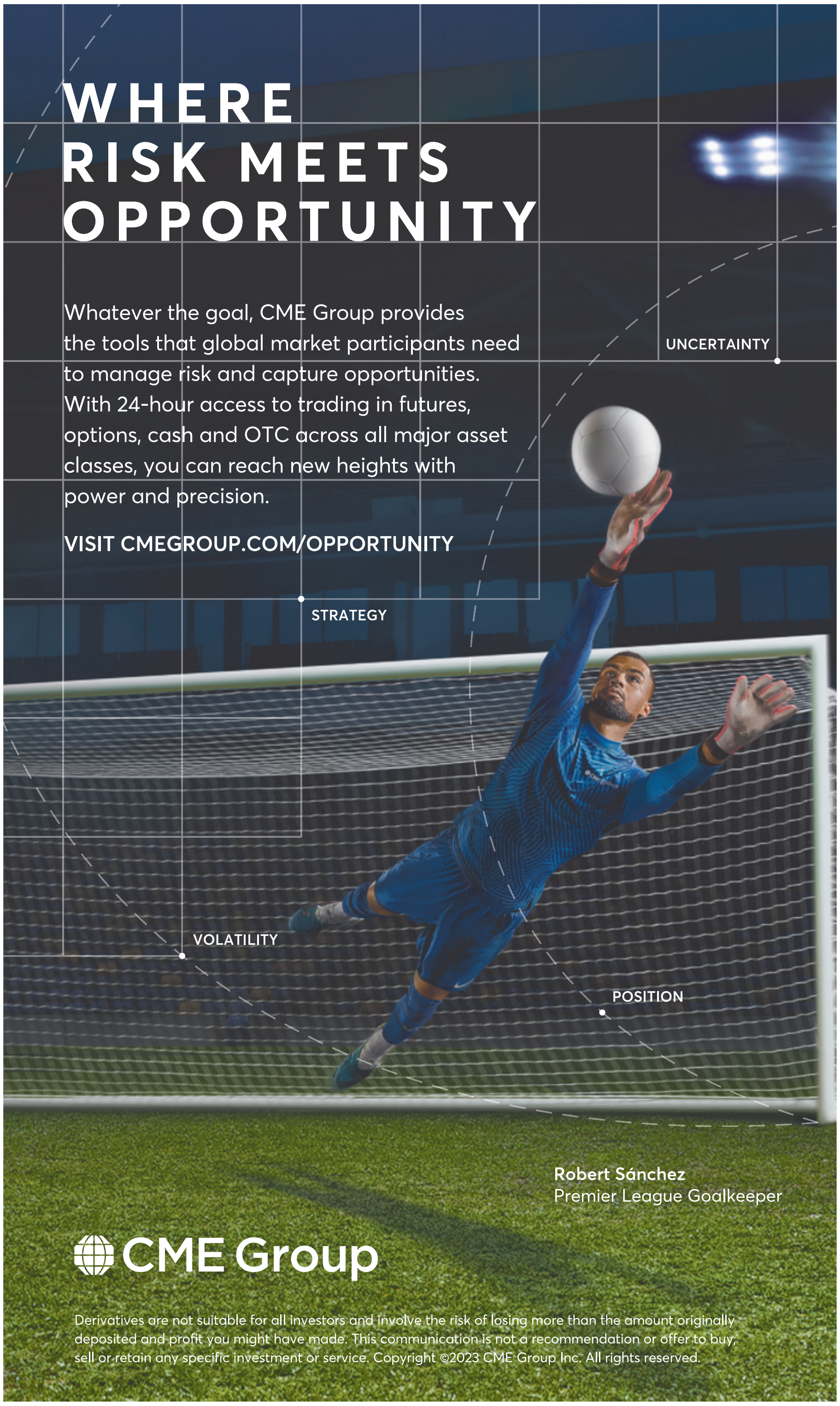
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Essential elegance for the busy woman

What do women want to wear? You might assume this question is at the heart of London Fashion Week but it often feels secondary to high concept and Insta-moments (Harriet Walker writes).

But at Tove, a label in its second season on the fashion week schedule, two designers are answering it with élan.

Camille Perry and Holly Wright's spring 2024 collection at the Hayward Gallery yesterday was so well judged that their models might have strode straight off to the Southbank below. Relaxed, timeless tailoring, draped and ruched midi dresses, wrapped tops worn with straight-leg jeans — it all cleansed the palate. So did the uniform flat leather pumps and pointed-toe babouche slip-ons, after much tottering in ludicrously high heels at other shows.

"Modern women are busy," Perry said backstage. "They need [clothes] that work hard." Wright said: "Our philosophy is an effortless, refined wardrobe in natural luxury fabrics and with longevity." That translates to loosely structured but businesslike blazers in versatile black and grey, as well as a putty-pink linen trouser suit whose flat-cut jacket was fastened with a freshwater pearl.

Decorative touches came in feathers along the hem of a silk chiffon skirt, and giant hoop earrings strung with more pearls. Everything felt special without seeming overdone.

Perry and Wright cut their teeth at Topshop during its heyday, designing the Kate Moss collections in the 2000s. Those clothes were a rite of passage for a certain generation and, although the duo are now working in a different price bracket, Tove looks set to become similar.

At the National Ballet's new home in the Docklands, Simone Rocha presented her signature frills and furbelows, this season in layers of sheer tulle that encased bunches of real roses and hoop-skirted gowns strung with garlands and pearls. The separates were more practical in their prettiness: satin pin-tucked skirts and blouses came in crimson and rosebud pink as well as plain white cotton. Yet it was accessories that stood out as potential viral hits: bejewelled trainers and Crocs, pistachio nylon shoulder bags and satin ballet slippers.

At Erdem, the British Museum was the backdrop and Chatsworth's Deborah Mitford the inspiration for a collection that was full of vintage floral prints and costume-drama frocks. Chintz and wallpaper bouquets adorned bedspreadesque coats that were spliced with Barbour collars and sleeves in a mashed-up country house chic. The Chatsworth façade was printed in the style of classic French toile de jouy, while neat and nipped skirt suits were inspired by the clothes the late duchess wore to tend chickens.

London Fashion Week closes today with its biggest name, Burberry.









Tove's modern workwear, above left, contrasted with Simone Rocha's signature frills and Erdem's vintage floral prints, watched by the actresses Billie Piper and Lily James

Nicotine powder sold legally to children

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Ministers are being urged to close a loophole that allows "harmful and addictive" high-strength nicotine pouches to be bought by children.

The small bags of nicotine powder, about the size of a piece of chewing gum, are tucked between the cheek and gum, where the powder dissolves and is absorbed into the bloodstream. They are not classed as tobacco-related products in the UK so can legally be sold to under-18s, as well as being promoted online and at music festivals.

They were originally designed as a nicotine-replacement product for people hoping to quit smoking and many big tobacco companies developed ranges. But the pouches are increasingly being marketed to young people as an alternative to vaping and "the new way to enjoy nicotine".

They are usually sold in brightly coloured small tins and come in an array of fruity flavours, including gummy bear, cinnamon spice, watermelon and tropical. Pouches are available in different strengths, with some containing 17mg of nicotine, roughly equivalent to what you would get from smoking a pack of cigarettes.

With the government poised to announce a crackdown on vapes within weeks in an attempt to reduce nicotine use in teenagers, campaigners say restrictions are also needed on pouches to prevent children switching to them.

Alice Wiseman, policy lead for addiction for the Association of Directors of Public Health, said: "The sale of these extremely harmful and addictive nicotine pods to children and young people is completely unacceptable. There is currently no regulation in place to stop these products being sold to under-18s, which leaves them vulnerable to the targeted marketing used to entice them into buying and using such a damaging product. Greater regulation needs to be introduced by the government to protect children and young people, to stop nicotine pods and other similar harmful products being advertised as something fun and appropriate for a person under the age of 18. Longer term research is required to better understand the health impacts of these products."

One in 20 people aged 18 to 34 in the UK have used nicotine pouch products, according to the latest data from the anti-smoking group Ash.

The charity's Hazel Cheeseman said: "Nicotine pouches are likely to be less harmful than smoking but that does not mean that they should not be regulated. Currently there are no controls around who they are sold to, how they are marketed or what the nicotine strength is. These are all areas the government should review through a comprehensive approach to nicotine regulation. The market keeps innovating but regulation does not keep up."

Several popular brands that manufacture nicotine pouches already restrict sales of their products to over-18s. This includes Velo, which is owned by British American Tobacco, one of the world's largest tobacco firms. Velo pouches come in flavours including strawberry, tropic breeze and watermelon, with packs of 20 pouches costing £6.50.

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ChatGPT fakery casts doubts on research papers

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

A few weeks ago, researchers from China published a paper on fossil fuel markets. It appeared in a peer-reviewed science journal but as Professor Guillaume Cabanac read it he noticed that some of the equations seemed wrong.

Cabanac, of the University of Toulouse, also spotted something much odder — a line that read: "As an AI language model, I am unable to generate specific tables or conduct tests."

This appears to be the smoking gun — a sign that the authors had used ChatGPT, a powerful artificial intelligence system, to produce the work — a practice that, when done less carelessly, threatens to make academic fraud far harder to detect.

Cabanac has found 20 scientific studies, all published in the past few months and supposedly peer-reviewed, that contain similar giveaway fragments. In several of them, the authors appear to have cut and pasted entire pages from ChatGPT, including the "regenerate response" button that users must click.

"These phrases are like fingerprints on a crime scene," Cabanac said. Yet they don't appear to have been noticed by the editors of the journals involved, or by the scientists who were asked to check the quality of the studies. It's really annoying — frankly, I'm not trusting peer review anymore," he said.

The discoveries will bolster Cabanac's credentials as an academic sleuth. In recent years he has helped to reveal a "paper mill" industry that churns out bogus research studies and sells them to scientists, often in China, India and Iran, to help them pad their CVs.

A recent report from the Committee on Publication Ethics, a non-profit organisation that combats fraudulent research, suggested that 1 in 50 papers submitted for publication now came from paper mills. The problem "threatens to overwhelm the editorial processes of a significant number of journals", it said.

One of Cabanac's tactics has involved searching for so-called "tortured phrases" — the results of common scientific terms being mangled by software that is supposed to cover up plagiarism by rewording text. The results are often bizarre: in one paper "breast cancer" was changed to "bosom peril", while "artificial intelligence" became "counterfeit consciousness".

The concern now is that AI systems, which can churn out what appears to be lucid prose on virtually any given topic, will allow paper mills to produce bogus research without these giveaways. It matters because fake papers risk polluting the research environment, according to Matt Hodgkinson of the UK Research Integrity Office. "People do actually build on this work," he said.

Despite the signs that ChatGPT had been used to produce the Chinese-authored paper, it was accepted by Resources Policy, which is owned by the Dutch publishing giant Elsevier. The journal has an "impact factor" of 10.2, meaning that papers that have appeared in it over the past two years have been cited by others an average of 10.2 times each by other studies in the past year. That's considered a strong score, marking it as influential in its field.

Even though Cabanac has flagged the suspected AI use, the paper is still available online — if you pay $27.95.

Elsevier said: "Paper mills are a threat to the integrity of research, and we use in-house or licensed technologies during the article screening process to conduct rigorous checks."

The authors of the suspect paper from China were asked to comment.

JOE GIDDENS/PA



Air power Hawker Hurricanes at the Imperial War Museum Battle of Britain Air Show at Duxford, Cambridgeshire, on Saturday

Female scientists prioritise public good over reputation

Rhys Blakely

Scientists are told that they must publish or perish — unless their work regularly appears in reputable journals their careers will wither.

However, a new study suggests that attitudes differ between the sexes: that women researchers are likelier to contribute more to the public good by making their findings easily accessible, while their male counterparts focus on boosting their own reputations.

The work looked at how researchers — in this case, economists — reacted to changes in how academic papers were published in Germany.

Amid a dispute over costs, two of the biggest science publishers — Wiley and Springer Nature — agreed to a radical overhaul of how they earn money from Germany's universities. As a result, most papers published by German researchers were made freely available online. Another of the largest publishers, Elsevier, refused to follow suit.

Consequently, dozens of German universities cancelled their subscriptions to Elsevier journals.

The study compared the behaviour of German economics researchers to those in other countries to try to unravel the effects of these changes. In particular, it searched for differences in how male and female authors reacted.

Unsurprisingly, researchers in Germany increased the number of papers they published in the easily accessible journals and decreased the number in the "closed" Elsevier titles. There was, however, a clear difference between the sexes, with a more pronounced shift away from the closed Elsevier journals by female authors. The same was true for all-female research groups and teams with a majority of women, which also significantly reduced their publications in Elsevier journals.

The response by men was more complicated. Male researchers became less likely to publish in certain Elsevier journals but they became more likely to release work through the publisher's most prestigious journals — even though it was now far harder for their German colleagues to read them.

"Women prioritise open science while men prioritise their reputation," said Professor Justus Haucap, of the University of Düsseldorf, who produced the study with his colleagues Wolfgang Schmal and Leon Knoke.

"Put differently, females contribute more to the public good."

The findings have been published in the journal Research Policy.

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Comment

A working class Tory is something to be

Sunak's government fails to understand that red wall voters are motivated by aspiration and not hostility to migrants

Philip Collins



@PCOLLINSTIMES

Politics in Britain was once class in action. In 1951 if you disclosed your income and occupation an analyst could predict, with almost perfect confidence, your party of choice. That bond, between class and political affiliation, frayed slowly from then and, by 2019, it had been severed. The general election that year was the first in which class status was of no value at all in predicting the result. Yet understanding the working class still matters and the Conservative Party really doesn't.

In a reversal of a truth of postwar politics the working class is now more likely to vote Conservative than Labour. In 2019 the Tories took a 13-point lead among unskilled workers. Among voters in households with an annual income of less than £20,000, 45 per cent voted Conservative, with Labour on 34 per cent. To many on the political left, working-class conservatism feels like a betrayal. How can the working class vote against its own economic interest? Is it not a species of self-harm?

As the son and the grandson of emphatic working-class conservatives, I am under no such patronising illusion. But it does make me think that the Conservative Party, in a desperate attempt to hold its coalition together, is getting working-class conservatives wrong. Their red wall rhetoric is all stop the boats, send them to Rwanda, cancel the cancel culture, woke is broke. The working-class conservatives of my own history were not turned on by all that. The sense of gloom and hostility that spins off Suella Braverman and Kemi Badenoch just doesn't capture their motivation. Working-class conservatism was not rooted in a world gone wrong; it was rooted in the aspiration for a better life.

The working-class conservatives who constructed the platform on which I stand wanted their children and grandchildren to become middle-class. They were unsentimental about the price of this aspiration. It meant a better job, a higher income, a nicer house in a more salubrious part of town or perhaps even a different and larger metropolis. If there was any prospect at all for their offspring to join the metropolitan elite, nobody would have been more delighted than those working-class conservatives. There

> People still believe in what Mrs Thatcher called 'vigorous virtues'

have always been lots of people of this disposition, and large cohorts in the north of England and in London. There still are, even though the working class today has changed. No longer to be found in the mine and the factory, the modern working class is in the health service and hospitality. But it is still made up of people who believe in what Mrs Thatcher thought of as the "vigorous virtues" of thrift, discipline, work and order. And they believe in getting on.

There are two strands of opinion in the current Conservative Party making an appeal to working-class voters and neither of them sounds at all like this. The first is the Braverman bullies. It is obvious that the Tory party has seized on immigration and asylum as the only subject on which it might conceivably unite its working-class and middle-class vote. In 2019 Brexit glued the campaign together but getting Brexit done has proved to be a serious problem in that the Tory party no longer has a cause to make.

But the Conservative fans of Brexit rarely describe the working-class appeal of Brexit correctly. Brexit had very little to do with the European Union and it was not principally a howl of outrage about immigration either. It is true that immigration featured high in the list of concerns at that time but anxiety about immigration is more complex than it seems. There are some people with egregious opinions, of course, but the greater part of the working-class Leave vote was not made up of racist folk who dislike immigrants. It was made up of people whose hopes were not being realised, who didn't like the change they saw around them, for whom the decline of manufacturing had depressed their hopes. These people latched on to "immigration" as a false proxy for lives not going right. That is conservatism of a kind, to be sure, but its source is not genuine hostility. To respond with a Rwanda policy that sounds nasty and cannot work, and empty promises on asylum that show neither sympathy nor policy imagination, is really to miss the point.

The Conservative Party will do no better if it listens to its communitarian wing instead. There is a band of conservatives, strong in the national conservatism movement and whose case is articulated in parliament by Danny Kruger MP, who want people to know their place. They want to shift resources to

ANDY RAIN/EPA



Suella Braverman emanates hostility rather than aspiration for a better life

towns and villages outside the southeast, and there is a lot to be said for that. But everything these conservatives say suggests that people should stay put. They always sound as if the socially and geographically mobile person is letting their home town down. Most of them, of course, come from within travelling distance of London. Their brand of stay-at-home conservatism would have been given short shrift by the working-class conservatives I have in mind.

Late last week the detailed papers dropped from the Labour National Policy Forum. On the assumption that you have not quite got round to finishing them all, I have scoured them for you. Running through Labour's communication is rhetoric about shattering the class ceiling. Its tired pun sounds out like an echo from a bygone era but Labour does have the sentiment right: "The promise we tell our children and grandchildren is that if you work hard, you'll be able to get on, no matter what your background."

My grandfather loathed Labour with a visceral passion precisely because he felt the Labour Party existed to ensure that working-class people remained working-class. He would recognise this sentiment of

> It isn't about anger or staying put it is about getting on in your life

aspiration even as he would have disdained its source.

The one Conservative politician who glimpsed this attitude was Boris Johnson. Giving thanks to his voters after the triumph in 2019, Johnson said: "All those whose pencils may have wavered over the ballot, and who heard the voices of their parents and their grandparents whispering anxiously in their ears, I say thank you for the trust you have placed in us and in me". The levelling-up department was formed but, despite the best efforts of Michael Gove in recent times, it hasn't done enough. With no case to make to working-class Tories, the Sunak government dials up the hostility. But working-class conservatism is rooted in hope more than fear. It wasn't about anger and it wasn't about staying put. It was always about getting on.

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Comment

Too many have got lost in the world of Brand

Comedian's alternate universe is a haven for the credulous — as long as you don't question him

Will Lloyd



@WILL__LLOYD

'I think I'm worse than normal people," said Russell Brand. It was October 23, 2014. The comedian was selling himself as a revolutionary. He still used the word "dickhead" all the time, but he was also the British Che Guevara. Within six months he would rank fourth in Prospect magazine's annual list of the world's 50 most influential thinkers, ahead of Jurgen Habermas, John Gray and Arundhati Roy. By May 2015 Ed Miliband was seeking Brand's endorsement in that year's general election.

Brand was joined on stage that night by the columnist Owen Jones; the event at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster was streamed live in cinemas across Britain. He had just written *Revolution*, a manifesto that advocated eradicating the nation state and a wider social upheaval to overturn "corporate tyranny, ecological irresponsibility and economic inequality". No corporation, Brand wrote, should have revenues larger than the nation with the smallest gross domestic product — Tuvalu in Polynesia at $37 million.

Jones and Brand did not discuss these ideas, perhaps because they did not make much sense. Mostly, Brand discussed himself: "I want attention. I want women. I want drugs. I want food. I want, I want, I want. I exemplify the problems of our culture … I'm a viciously authoritative, controlling man."

An audience of sweet left-wingers in knitwear giggled and applauded. They were not really supporting Brand's ideas. Beyond a do-as-you-please libertarianism, an abstract love for humanity and despising "the establishment", Brand did not have any ideas to support. Instead, the crowd were saluting the idea that an individual armed with charisma alone could be the antidote to Britain's supposedly broken politics. His avowed narcissism made them feel less guilty about their own selfishness.

On Saturday evening Brand performed at Wembley Park Theatre.

> Brand told the crowd traffic lights are a form of authoritarianism

Other than the location, all that had changed was the audience, and the fact that Brand had been accused of rape, sexual assaults and emotional abuse — all of which he has denied — in a joint investigation by The Sunday Times, The Times and Channel 4's *Dispatches*. But Brand was exactly the same. "Never trust authority in any circumstances," he told the crowd, attacking "top-down elitist control". He said traffic lights were a form of authoritarianism. The implicit message had not altered since 2014: nobody tells Russell Brand what to do.

Brand used to spread that message on comedy panel shows and in newspaper interviews. In recent years new platforms emerged. Brand constructed a social media empire. He streamed a daily show on Rumble, a video platform designed to be immune to cancel culture. He masterminded an alcohol-free community festival in Hay-on-Wye. He podcasted about "revolutionary politics and spiritual awakening". Brand was much closer to his fans than in 2014. This communication was more intimate. There were no middlemen nor gatekeepers. Brand posted every day. His audience believed they actually knew him. He told them, always, to "question everything".

Except Russell Brand. He said the allegations against him made him ask: "Is there another agenda at play?" It is the same question Brand has been asking since 2014. You either question everything or you are on the side of the bankers, the big pharmaceutical companies, the warmongers. You either do whatever you want or you are an authoritarian. You are either with Russell Brand or you are against him. Online over the weekend thousands of people joined the audience at Wembley Park Theatre in being with Russell Brand.

From certain angles, scepticism really is about questioning everything. But it also means questioning yourself. "Que sais-je?" (What do I know?) was Michel de Montaigne's beloved motto. The philosopher understood that our own faulty perceptions were the first thing we needed to be wary of. In Brand's alternate universe there is nothing wrong with him, or any of his followers. Scepticism becomes a means of generating blind allegiance. No form of authority, other than Brand's, is acceptable. "What do I know?" becomes "What are they hiding from me?"

Brand is only right about one thing. He really does exemplify the problems of our culture. On the same day the allegations against him were published, polling found that a third of British adults "regard the system as broken and are highly suspicious of those they hold responsible". A similar poll in January found that 38 per cent of the British population agrees with the statement: "The world is controlled by a secretive elite." This is Russell Brand's Britain.

Endless excuses are made for that nation. If only they were not manipulated by social media companies. If only their manufacturing jobs hadn't been obliterated. If only the elites had managed the fallout from the financial crisis better. These excuses treat this demos like a succession of media managers seem to have treated Brand — as a difficult and helpless child who needs to be abetted and soothed. Everything is somebody else's fault. A blind eye is always turned.

Russell Brand is the same man he was nine years ago. Then his cheerleaders were Owen Jones, Vivienne Westwood and Jemima Khan. Today they are Jordan Peterson, Elon Musk and Laurence Fox. The market for nonsense solutions to non-existent problems has always existed. Credulity is a fact of human life. The difference from 2014 is how large that market has become, and just how many people are prepared to lose themselves in it.

Will Lloyd is a commissioning editor and writer at the New Statesman

Sathnam Sanghera Notebook

Mysterious beep drove our street to distraction

What's the worst sound in the world? Until recently I'd have suggested Robert Jenrick defending government policy, but I've discovered something even more grating: a persistent but unexplained beeping in the home. I returned from holiday to it, and it proved annoying enough for me to abandon unpacking and spend a fruitless hour unplugging every appliance I own.

Next morning, a complaint from a neighbour about the beeping had me turning off my electricity from the mains and spending an hour replacing every battery in every heat alarm, in case they were responsible. They weren't. The beeping continued and there followed an £85 visit from an electrician who noticed I'd missed out a smoke alarm. And when replacing its batteries still didn't solve the problem, he suggested changing all of my heat alarms entirely, which he did, 24 hours later, for a charge of more than £500.

Unfortunately, 20 seconds after the final one was replaced and activated … the peace was shattered by yet more beeping. A frantic search finally produced the culprit: a carbon monoxide alarm tucked behind my boiler, installed by the previous owners in 2007 and seemingly running out of battery. I threw it into an outside bin in a rage only to get another complaint from a neighbour that evening about how the infernal beeping had become even louder.

Which is how, on one of the warmest nights of the year, I found myself emptying a large bin on to a London pavement and, among the soiled nappies, smashing a carbon monoxide alarm with a hammer. And guess what, I'd only just settled down in front of the telly when … BEEP.

Train drain

The second worst sound in the world? Management consultants discussing their work and presentations loudly on trains before 9am.

The only comfort about catching early morning trains, as I've been doing while recording a new BBC Radio 4 series on the imperial history of tea, is the opportunity they provide for sleep. But in the 21st century this potential rest is invariably disturbed by young men and women in pristinely ironed white shirts "running ideas up and down the flagpole", "maximising synergies going forward", pivoting "out of the envelope" and into "paradigm shifts", and "reaching out" into "impactful step changes".

It's maddening, but there's a solution, I think. A correspondent tells me she once became so annoyed by a loud business conversation on a train that she looked up the person being discussed and sent him a message on LinkedIn to tell him that two colleagues wanted him fired and he should be careful. If enough of us do this kind of thing, perhaps we can enact a real "paradigm shift" and finally make loud work conversations "pivot" out of morning trains.



Ageing badly

The third worst sound in the world? Dialogue in a striking proportion of Noughties TV dramas. They say nothing ages as quickly as yesterday's vision of the future, but a week spent exploring the dramas I missed as a twentysomething workaholic has taught me that box sets date even more rapidly. *24* may have been innovative at the time, but the racial stereotypes are cringe-making and the manner in which the characters keep making the same mistakes is maddening. There wasn't a single character I could stand by episode 13.

Meanwhile, there are an incredible 19 seasons of *Grey's Anatomy* but I couldn't get past the first: one of its narratives involved the central character cheerfully submitting to sexual harassment at the hands of a senior surgeon, a plot-line that in the light of last week's reports on the misogyny of surgeons feels as relevant as Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*. And don't get me started on *The West Wing*, a TV show that revolves around the now unthinkable concept of a US president who is not an octogenarian. Some things have got better in recent decades, TV chief among them.

Money rolls in

Tweet of the month from @edcumming: "Why is it called the FT Weekend Festival and not Earning Man?"

@SATHNAM

THUNDERER

We must not throw away the chance to cut down our waste

Mike Maudsley

I run a company that makes its living from waste, so I hope you'll pay attention when I say this: Britain is throwing away too much stuff. We've never produced more waste than we do today. Aren't we all painfully aware of the impact of waste? Don't we all do what we can to recycle and re-use?

In recent years we have made some progress, but not enough. Recycling rates have flatlined. We still bury millions of tonnes of rubbish in landfill, making it a problem for future generations. We still send millions of tonnes overseas to become a problem for someone else — someone poorer.

In a perfect world, we would have zero waste. But we don't live in a perfect world, so we need to have an honest conversation about waste.

Recycling, sadly, is not a silver bullet. Plastic can only be recycled two or three times before its quality declines irrevocably. For paper, it's between four and seven times. Instead, we must first look to reduce waste at source, starting with the everyday things we buy.

> Carbon capture has become a necessity rather than an option

This means fixing broken items so they don't end up in the bin. A broader Right to Repair would be a good start on the journey to a more circular economy: aren't we all sick of binning household electricals after a few short years because so many things can't be mended? Businesses should also face legal requirements to disclose the waste footprint of their products.

We need to ban combustible waste — paper, cardboard, plastics, rags, textiles — from landfill from 2028 and have a strategy to end all landfill by 2040 (landfill produces methane that's 80 times more harmful to the climate than carbon dioxide). We must end the exporting of waste in the next five years.

Even with these policies, the reality is that there will always be some waste, so we need to make best use of it. My company is part of an energy-from-waste industry that diverts 15 million tonnes of unrecyclable waste from landfill every year, incinerates it and provides more than 1 per cent of the nation's power. But we can do more. Installing carbon capture technology at energy-from-waste plants could remove 20 million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere every year. The time to act is now. In the words of the climate change committee, carbon capture is a "necessity, not an option". We already waste too much — we must not throw away this opportunity.

Mike Maudsley is the chief executive of enfinium



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We're less obedient — thank God for that

The notion of divine and male authority is thankfully in the past but we ignore respect for the rules at our peril

Libby Purves



@LIB_THINKS

I was at first faintly riled by reports of the World Values Survey by King's College London suggesting that between 1990 and today there has been a dramatic slump in British parents' desire for "obedience" in children. It gave an impression that a fossilised structure abruptly collapsed with the change of century; whereas really the drop is moderate compared with the erosion of parental rigidity over the preceding 40 years. There is a yawning gulf of attitudes between my own childhood in the 1950s and the way we carried on in the 1990s. It is not at all surprising that the suspicion of strict obedience has deepened.

Postwar parents said things like "Do as you are told, child! Because I say so, that's why!" without anyone thinking it oppressive. I suppose people had come out of the army or war work where "orders is orders", and political leaders were also less distrusted than today. Parents weren't necessarily unreasonable in the 1950s, but hierarchy felt natural. Whereas by 1990 I can assure you that "gentle parenting" was already well dug in: the 1960s saw to that.

Lenient family negotiation may not have been universal and still isn't — people can piously lie to surveys and then bellow exasperated orders at their children in supermarkets — but I can assure you that, by the time I hit the maternity ward, every fashionable childcare book was enjoining frazzled parents always to reason, explain, offer choices and "invite co-operation" over boundaries. Certainly not to expect brats to do as they're told. Anyone offering a compliment like "What a nice obedient child!" would already be seen as borderline Nazi: far more acceptable to praise someone's offspring as creative, original, "a bit

> Only 12 per cent of British parents think obedience is important

of a character", than as docile.

I did notice about ten years ago a brief fashion for books about "taming" children, but it faded. So there is no surprise that the World Values Survey finds only 12 per cent of British parents think obedience is important. It would probably be 1 per cent if it wasn't for cultural diversity.

Internationally, we're right at the bottom of the table for valuing obedience: only the Swedes, Chinese, South Koreans and Japanese value it less. Piquantly, Sweden and Japan also join us at the bottom of the league in believing that children ought to care for their elderly parents. So we don't expect them either to do as they're told when they're small, or support us when they're big. No wonder the birth rate is dropping in all those countries.

I jest: none of this means that families are any worse, indeed they're probably far better for respecting childish idiosyncrasy and teaching co-operation. But it is fascinating how the very word obedience fell out of fashion in the West: look it up online and the only enthusiasts are dog-trainers or rather worrying evangelicals.

Indeed the hierarchical notion that absolute authority flows down from God through the male line has long been a tool of human oppression: it had wives submit to husbands, even unto marital rape and beating with a small stick. St Paul in I Corinthians xi, 3 firmly says: "The head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man."

Yet I remember watching the 1987 Church of England Synod debate on women priests when that line was quoted. One gentle episcopal voice asked the assembled sceptics: "Seriously, those of you who are married, ask yourselves when did you actually last exercise this headship?" Much laughter. Even devoutly Christian brides jib at promising to "love, honour and obey", and leave the last one out.

In some creeds every woman and child is still expected to be submissive to all adult men: ask any Afghan or Iranian girl. And it is a version of the same idea, of down-flowing unchallengeable authority, which has enabled parental dictatorship through history:

> Every time we fill in a tax form or slow to 20mph we are obeying

beatings, starvings, all the way to forced dynastic marriages or enlistment in a family trade. For too long there reigned a deadening conviction that all wisdom and authority rest with the oldest and malest. Good riddance to cultures that drop it.

Go wider, though, and the challenge in any society is replacing that simple orderliness. In some situations only obedience works. It's negotiated. Explorers or ships' crew sign up to obey skippers within the limits of the expedition, because they understand that the line is drawn once it's over. Teenage trainees who ignore rules in dangerous sports get thrown out. Employees who disobey data-processing systems ruin organisations. At a political level, once monarchy lost its godly power the answer was democracy, laws made by the elected. Every time we fill in a tax form or slow down to 20mph we are obeying, accepting that there is no negotiation. We sanction and disapprove of those who loot shops, harm people or flout bylaws.

But abusing that compliant docility has perils. Lockdowns and restrictions under Covid-19 saw an old-fashioned, childlike obedience that the leadership had never expected. I cannot forget the moment when Boris Johnson, an elected prime minister, albeit a man not seen as personally admirable, gave us "A very simple instruction: you must stay at home." No negotiation, however desperate the circumstances: obey! Some shadow of wartime deference made it work without needing armed troops on the streets. The leadership was given compliant trust over its huge deprivation of liberty, like a national father.

But Johnson and his colleagues, from Cummings onwards, never understood that when they casually broke their own rules they also broke something else, something old but still useful. But I think they did. And on that level it won't come back.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

HS2 cut short

Sir, In 2015 the House of Lords economic affairs committee asked the government to consider whether investment in northern rail infrastructure should be prioritised over HS2 ("PM 'pushing for HS2 to stop six miles away from Euston'", Sep 16). Our report in May 2019, Rethinking HS2, found that no such assessment was done and expressed serious concern that the project could never be completed within its £55.7 billion budget. We recommended measures to cut costs, including avoiding tunnelling under London by making Old Oak Common the terminus. The new Elizabeth line made continuing to Euston unnecessary and abandoning it would enable an earlier start on the northern sections. The report warned that a failure to act on the cost overruns would result in there being insufficient funding for the northern sections. Our recommendations were ignored but sadly our conclusions have proved prescient and it is the north of England and taxpayers that will pay the price.
Lord Forsyth of Drumlean
House of Lords

Sir, Stopping HS2 outside central London would be a positive thing. Euston isn't a destination in its own right but merely an interchange, primarily a place from which to leave or enter the capital. It can readily be shown that for most places in London changing at Old Oak Common would be quicker than continuing to Euston. The present grim Euston station could be remodelled on its own merits but it is pointless extending it, at huge cost to the nation.
Tim Stockton
London NW5

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Electric car transition may be a bumpy ride

Sir, Rishi Sunak is ignoring reality in forcing an early transition to electric cars ("PM rejects reprieve for petrol cars", Sep 16). At present, and most likely until well after 2030, electric cars run on fossil fuel — all the renewable electricity we generate is already used to replace fossil fuel, and any extra electricity demand is met by burning more fossil gas in power stations. Demanding extra electricity is what electric cars do.

Electric cars may be close to carbon-neutral but whether they are slightly carbon-positive or slightly carbon-negative depends on the detail — whether the efficiency of gas-fired power stations, less the losses in transmission, storage and discharge in batteries, and the extra fuel consumption due to the extra weight of the electric cars, is greater or less than the efficiency of burning fossil fuel directly in petrol or diesel cars.

I haven't seen evidence from the government on this, but I would expect diesel cars to be best, electric might come second, leaving petrol in third place. In any case, what electric cars are definitely not is carbon-free or decarbonised.
Professor David Dunstan
Queen Mary University of London

Sir, I was interested to see that Mr Sunak is to allow no flexibility on the 2030 transition. Three things will follow. First, there will be a rush to buy new, fossil-fuelled cars before this date. Second, a black market will develop, whereby second-hand petrol and diesel cars will be imported from nations that have less stringent rules. Third, owners of petrol and diesel cars will hang on to them for much longer.

The better solution is to switch to hydrogen fuel. It is likely that the electric car will turn out to be the Betamax of the vehicle world. This policy has not been thought through properly and, come 2030, we will have showrooms full of electric cars and not a lot of sales.
David Palmer
Clee St Margaret, Shropshire

Sir, Your leading article ("Speed Up!", (Sep 16) calling for a quicker introduction of public electric vehicle chargers covered only half the story. Installed chargers are often unusable or inaccessible. This can be because they're poorly maintained — I know of a bank of four in south Glasgow that have been out of order for almost a year. Many twin chargers cannot in reality fast-charge two vehicles simultaneously. In truth, I have given up seeking public chargers. I now limit my round trips from home to the battery's limit (240 miles) and for longer journeys take public transport.

Perhaps that is what the government intends?
Dr David Carvel
St Andrews, Fife

Sir, Given the government's obsession with achieving net zero by command, control and subsidise, it is not surprising that the prime minister has put the requirement of carmakers to be able to sell their electric vehicles before value for money for consumers. What Mr Sunak should have done is to have removed the 2030 deadline and pointed out to the manufacturers that the most appropriate way to create the demand they required would be to substantially increase electric vehicles' range and reduce their price.

Initial government support to get the market moving may have been necessary. Continuing to intervene simply means innovation and competition will be stifled.
Dr Alan Hearne
Woodstock, Oxon

Halting dog attacks

Sir, I have no sympathy with the argument that large aggressive dogs such as the American XL bully are not to blame for attacks and that it is owners who are at fault ("Ban on XL bully dogs after fatal attack", Sep 16). What is easier — the banning and removal of any breed of dog that has been shown to attack people, or ensuring that every owner of such an animal trains them not to be aggressive and keeps them under full control? Given that these dogs often appeal to those who want them to intimidate, I see no prospect of success by tackling the owners. Removal of the dogs is the only solution, imperfect though it may be.
Frederick Briggs
Loughborough

Sir, Whenever a breed of dog becomes recognised as dangerous, the tendency is to react by outlawing it, with the concomitant difficulty of defining novel and crossbreeds and separating the effects of innately aggressive traits from the neglectful mismanagement of their owners. I suggest that it might be easier to do the following: to require anyone breeding and selling dogs to be registered and to prosecute illegal breeders; to produce a list of accepted dog breeds and named crosses and to require those that cannot be easily identified by a vet as being on the list to be neutered at the owner's expense and muzzled in public; to accept that any dog, regardless of size or breed, may bite and therefore insist that all are insured for third-party injury.
Dr James Palmer
Sedbergh, Cumbria

Sir, No dog is born vicious, malevolent or wanting to harm. It is their owners who instil the vicious traits — dogs respond to what they are told to do. Knives, guns and any other instrument don't attack or kill, it is the users who do so.
Jasper Dalgliesh
Brackley, Northants

Sir, I suggest that dogs be treated as "bladed articles" in law because of their teeth, and that when they harm someone, their owners are held to account just as if they had used any other bladed article.
Helena Edwards
Syston, Leics

Retirement living

Sir, Ministers would do well to note the growing problem in retirement living that Andrew Ellson highlights ("Inheritances hit as prices of elderly's properties plunge", Sep 16). I pay punishing monthly charges on my late parents' retirement flat, which has lost 55 per cent of its value since 2015. One route to freeing housing is to encourage the retired to downsize, but retirement living disincentivises moving while developers and landlords profit from empty homes.
Ian Tinsley
Warminster, Wilts

Fond farewells

Sir, I was bewildered to read that a wake was held after the funeral of Michael Parkinson ("Parkinson laid to rest with Barnsley football scarf", Sep 15). That was a reception. A wake is a gathering of family and friends, held around the open coffin before the funeral or cremation, to keep watch and honour the dead.
Gerard Lynch
Woburn Sands, Bucks

SCRAPPING OF MASSIVE U-BOAT DOCK

FROM THE TIMES SEPTEMBER 18, 1923

The huge steel floating dock for testing submarines, one of the engineering wonders of the war, which was constructed for the German Navy, and which came into the possession of the British Admiralty on the cessation of hostilities, has been bought from the Admiralty by Messrs Cox and Danks, iron and steel merchants, of Regent Street, for breaking up at their depot at Queenborough. The dock, which is now at Harwich, will be towed to Queenborough by three powerful seagoing tugs. The voyage will begin today, and it is hoped that the dock will reach Queenborough tomorrow.

Some idea of the great size of the dock may be gained when it is stated that the whole structure weighs 5,000 tons and that if it were placed in Northumberland Avenue it would more than fill that thoroughfare and extend into Trafalgar Square on one side and on to the Embankment on the other. It has a total length of 412ft and a breadth of 131ft. Its outstanding feature is a great cylinder for the reception of the submarine for testing purposes. When a test was made the dock was submerged, and the submarine was introduced into the cylinder, which is 40ft in diameter, and runs the whole length of the dock. There is space in the dock for berthing two other submarines, one on either side of the cylinder. The whole of the mechanical operations connected with the structure are controlled from one room or cabin, this control room containing, like the conning tower of a submarine, all the devices by means of which the raising and submerging of the dock are controlled.

It is believed that the dock is the only one of its type in existence. It was designed by a Hamburg engineer, named Von Klitzing. The plans were rejected by the Russian Government, to whom they were first submitted, and in 1916 the dock was ordered for the German Navy. Its construction, however, was delayed, and it was not until the summer of 1918 that it was completed. Many engineers would probably like to inspect the dock before it is broken up, and Messrs Cox and Danks are prepared to give facilities for those interested to view it. The firm is at present breaking up the Dreadnoughts Erin and Orion, also bought from the Admiralty.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Africa's enslavers

Sir, You report that Caribbean countries are seeking $33 trillion in slavery reparations from Europe (news, Sep 13). Why just Europe? We hear a lot about slave traders and owners, but little about the enslavers — the warriors of slave-raiding kingdoms such as the Ashanti. If states are to be held responsible for everything in their past, then at least Nigeria and Ghana need to atone for their misdeeds.

To be sure, the perpetrators were incentivised by the export opportunities offered by the new traders, but the culture of enslavement of Africans by Africans is longstanding and entrenched, and to limit the reparations demand to Europe looks like an unsubtle attempt to rewrite history.
Timothy Smiley
Clare College, Cambridge

Young slackers

Sir, Emma Duncan is quite right ("Slacking off will only pay for 85% of the future", Sep 15). To imagine that a career can be built, or a salary justified, by putting in sub-optimal effort is a waste of time and life. The examples she quotes of people exploiting their employers' goodwill merely demonstrate just how wealthy a society we — for the moment — have. My work takes me all over the world, where anything less than a properly completed project results, not just in a rollicking, but more likely in a refusal to pay. Ms Duncan's youngsters need to take a peek at the real world.
Mark H Levy
Managing director
Knutsford Exhibitions

Right to expression

Sir, Perhaps if more of the silent majority responded to criticism of the singer Róisín Murphy for her comments about puberty blockers by buying her album (news, Sep 14; letters, Sep 15), then the BBC and others might be somewhat slower to kowtow to those trying to cancel her. Ms Murphy has benefited financially from her stand. I have bought not only her latest album, but all her previous ones too. We can all make a statement by buying in to free speech, freedom of thought and freedom of expression.
Monica Murphy
Crewkerne, Somerset

Reformed club

Sir, The splendid Reform Club in Pall Mall was the first traditional gentlemen's club to admit women, in 1981, when I was delighted to be welcomed ("KC could get women into Garrick", Sep 16). Joanna Lumley and Emily Bendell should spurn the Garrick. I would be happy to propose them for the much more enlightened (reformed) Reform Club.
Jenny Botsford
London W8

Lack of face value

Sir, Those expressing concern about facial recognition leading to "dystopian surveillance" (letters, Sep 16) need not worry. My bank's app uses such technology and fails to recognise me more often than not — and it has the advantage of knowing whom it is trying to identify.
Don Grocott
Walton on Thames, Surrey

Daily Universal Register

UK: Rightmove monthly house price index; Organ Donation Week starts; Office for National Statistics publishes profile of centenarians living in England and Wales.

Nature notes



The first of the pink-footed geese are returning from their breeding grounds in Iceland and southern Greenland, straggling into Britain's wetlands in long, wavering lines. In they come, pulse after pulse of them, making for coastal plains and lowlands in Scotland and moving down into northern England and East Anglia as temperatures fall. More than 500,000 winter here now, and with numbers rising they are becoming a seasonal spectacle, drawing visitors to nature reserves from Scotland's Montrose Basin to The Wash on the east coast. Look out for them flying in Vs overhead and sounding their hound-like, belling music against grey September skies.
MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Tim McInnerny, *pictured*, actor, *Notting Hill* (1999), 67; **Russ Abbot**, comedian and actor, 76; **Joshua Angrist**, economist, co-recipient of the Nobel memorial prize in economics (2021), 63; **Lance Armstrong**, cyclist, Tour de France winner who was later stripped of his seven titles because of drug use, 52; **Frankie Avalon**, singer, *Venus* (1959), and actor, 83; **The Rt Rev Paul Butler**, bishop of Durham, 68; **Sol Campbell**, footballer, England (1996-2007) and Arsenal (2001-06, 2010), 49; **Joanne Catherall**, singer, the Human League, *Don't You Want Me* (1981), 61; **Dame Siobhan Davies**, choreographer, *Bird Song* (2004), 73; **Florence Eshalomi**, Labour (Co-op) MP for Vauxhall, shadow minister for democracy, 43; **Chris Eubank Jr**, boxer, 34; **Tara Fitzgerald**, actress, *Game of Thrones* (2013-15), 56; **Jason Gardener**, athlete, Olympic gold medallist (2004), president, UK Athletics, 48; **Darren Gough**, cricketer, England (1994-2006) and captain of Yorkshire (2007-08), 53; **Stephen Maddock**, principal, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, 55; **James Marsden**, actor, *Jury Duty* (2023), 50; **Ryan Moore**, flat-racing jockey, champion jockey (2006, 2008, 2009), 40; **Meredith Oakes**, playwright, *The Editing Process* (1994), 77; **Lisa Osofsky**, director, Serious Fraud Office, 62; **Steven Pinker**, cognitive psychologist, Johnstone Family Professor, Harvard University, and writer, *Rationality* (2021), 69; **Jada Pinkett-Smith**, actress, *Queen Cleopatra* (2023), 52; **Derek Pringle**, cricketer, England (1982-92), 65; **Sir Christopher Ricks**, literary critic, *Along Heroic Lines* (2021), Warren professor of the humanities, Boston University, 90; **Peter Shilton**, goalkeeper, England (1970-1990) and Nottingham Forest (1977-82), 74; **Iain Stewart**, Conservative MP for Milton Keynes South, 51; **Kieran West**, rower, Olympic gold medallist (2000), 46; **Tom Wright**, architect, 66.

On this day

In **1975** the heiress Patty Hearst was arrested in San Francisco for crimes committed with the terrorist group the Symbionese Liberation Army, which had kidnapped her.

The last word

"*There are some four million different kinds of animals and plants in the world. Four million different solutions to the problems of staying alive.*" Sir David Attenborough, *Life on Earth* (1979)

Uncaring Profession

For the first time, NHS consultants and junior doctors will this week strike on the same day. This reckless escalation makes them unworthy of public respect

Something extraordinary will happen on Wednesday. For the first time in the history of the National Health Service both consultants and their junior colleagues will strike together, resulting in almost all planned care coming to a complete stop. It will be Christmas Day come early with only limited emergency cover available, as in the depths of the festive season. But not much cheer for patients in pain and discomfort who have been waiting months for treatment and will now see their appointments cancelled. Their suffering is the price for a cruelly attritional strike campaign that has long since departed from reality.

Consultants are striking tomorrow and Wednesday; junior doctors will walk out on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. And they are threatening to continue joint action on three days in early October — during the Conservative Party conference — and quite possibly during the remaining life of this government.

One would imagine that for hospital doctors to abandon their professional and moral obligations in such a deliberate and callous way they must be driven by the need to right some terrible wrong — the announcement of mass redundancies in the NHS, for example. In fact junior doctors are striking for a 35 per cent pay rise. That's right, 35 per cent. Their argument is that this figure, redolent of a South American basket case economy, is their due because of real-terms earnings cuts over the past decade. The radical faction heading the junior doctors' committee of the British Medical Association (BMA), the doctors' union, knows full well that this is a national phenomenon. But it has convinced itself that its members have some supernatural right to special treatment. Presumably, this is because doctors themselves are special.

So, how are they special? Well, they are highly skilled, the products of many years' teaching. But so are lawyers and architects and many other skilled people. And these other professions and trades are largely based in the private sector where there is far less security of tenure and no prospect a gold-plated pension courtesy of the taxpayer.

True, earnings early in their careers are hardly impressive, and a lot is asked of young medics. But before them lies a path delivering them to a consultant's income of £120,000 and a pension quite likely to be more than twice the size of the current average salary. As consultants they will be allowed to earn extra from private practice, despite training hugely subsidised by the taxpayer, and there will be plenty of weekends away from the wards — as many a patient waiting until Monday to be discharged can testify. So there must be something else that marks doctors out. And that something, surely, is that their profession is one of the ultimate expressions of human civilisation: a career dedicated not to gain but to the alleviation of suffering. A profession that is not commercial but caring. How does 35 per cent chime with that?

The truth is that the BMA and those among its membership who back these forever strikes have shown themselves to be cynically self-interested, and in some cases politically motivated. The government has offered junior doctors in England an average 8.8 per cent pay rise, which many in the private sector can but dream of. Consultants, meanwhile, have been offered 6 per cent, which largely safeguards their comfortable lifestyles against inflation. The BMA's relentless escalation of this dispute while refusing to budge from the summit of its mountainous claim is wholly indefensible. Hundreds of thousands of appointments have so far been cancelled as a result of doctors' strikes this year, sabotaging attempts to bring down NHS waiting lists from 7.7 million. In their selfish and reckless actions, hospital doctors have shown themselves to be anything but special. In their stubborn pursuit of the unattainable they have sacrificed public respect.

Age of the Unwell

Sickness benefits are turning into lifelong incomes, with disastrous consequences

Britain is in danger of becoming one vast national sanatorium. An unprecedented 2.6 million people between the ages of 16 and 64 are economically inactive — not looking for work — due to long-term sickness, and that figure is forecast by the government to rise inexorably over coming years. It is as if the country is somehow pre-programmed to suffer more back pain and more depression in future, whatever measures are taken by individuals and society to improve matters. An increasing number of recently able-bodied Britons appear to regard illness not as something to be recovered from in due course but as a way of life to be endured for the foreseeable future. This is a tragedy for them and a problem for the country, which must find a way of paying for this growing mass of unproductive people or alter radically a culture that is rapidly becoming embedded in society.

Now comes news that taxpayers are facing more alarming increases in the bill for the sick. The consultancy LCP is warning that the working-age problem overshadows an equally alarming liability developing in the retired population. This is yet more proof of a system out of control.

Currently the taxpayer is paying £22 billion a year on personal independence payments (PIP), which compensate claimants for the additional costs of being disabled. There are more than 3 million people on this benefit and they range across the ages from the young to the retired. LCP warns that for those pensioners claiming PIP the benefit has effectively become a lifetime entitlement, with an average cost of £70,000 per person from retirement until death. There are one million retired PIP claimants and the figure is expected to rise to 1.6 million by 2033, costing an extra £4.5 billion.

The explosion in PIP claims was not helped by the decision of Amber Rudd, then work and pensions secretary, to exempt pensioners from periodic reviews checking their entitlement to them. Ms Rudd's intention was noble: to take away the worry of a review for elderly and infirm people with no prospect of recovery. But this change created an open-ended commitment on PIP that could only grow. Benefits conditional on health must generally be subject to reassessment. It cannot be beyond the wit of government to sift cases that may improve from those that will not.

An additional danger is that working-age people on PIP simply graduate into the assessment-free retired phase. This is why it is vital that working-age claimants must be the focus of intense efforts at rehabilitation. The benefits conveyor belt must be interrupted. The longer people stay on PIP the lower the chance that they will ever come off it.

Britain used be near the bottom of the OECD table for economic inactivity. But as the rich nations club average has fallen by 0.4 per cent since 2020 Britain's rate has risen by 0.5 per cent. More long-term sickness has added £15.7 billion to government borrowing because of increased benefits and lower tax receipts. Longer NHS waiting lists, though serious, are not the main cause. The truth is that disability benefits have become easier to claim. The acceptance rate for claims shot up in the decade to 2020 from 35 per cent to over 80 per cent. To this is added the perverse incentive of a Universal Credit system that pays twice as much to people with health needs. Result: a rise in claims by more than 300,000 in a year to 1.8 million. This is not all about ill-health.

Life in the Slow Lane

A default 20mph limit in residential areas in Wales is unnecessary and oppressive

Many people retire to Wales in search of a more gentle pace of life and good luck to them. But it may come as news to the devolved Labour administration in Cardiff that a not insignificant proportion of the Welsh population work for a living. That means having to get about. In a car.

The main benefit of the car is that it confers on the user a thing called speed. For an automobile to be worth the purchase price it is advisable that its velocity generally exceeds that of a walking human being, or an ambling Llanwenog. For Mark Drakeford, the Welsh first minister and nanny-in-chief, however, this is all far too racy.

As a Labour man from the land of the socialist-leaning male voice choir , Mr Drakeford might be expected to admire the musical version of the red flag. But his imposition of a default 20mph speed limit in residential areas of Wales from yesterday suggests an ultimate ambition to reintroduce the physical version back on to the roads — held by a man in a top hat parading in front of a horseless carriage. Mr Drakeford justifies the new restriction by claiming lives will be saved and injuries avoided. But he does not explain why the 20mph limit could not be confined to stretches near schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

Perhaps a partial 20mph limit offends the first minister's sense of neatness. Those of a bureaucratic, controlling bent prize conformity and uniformity; simple rules for a simple populace. He clearly believes his people are too stupid to moderate their speed in 20mph zones and must be trained to crawl around every residential street and road, eyes glued to the speedometer rather than the road ahead for fear of a fine.

Critics claim the change will cost the Welsh economy billions over coming decades; this is as arguable as supposed environmental benefits. But for sure this is another freedom casually seized.

World

Surge in migration ‘puts future

The Italian PM is calling for an EU naval mission to halt the smugglers, report **James Imam** and **Bruno Waterfield**

The future of the European Union is at stake unless it can stop a surge in uncontrolled migration across the Mediterranean, the Italian prime minister has said.

Giorgia Meloni, a populist right-winger, issued her warning on a joint visit with Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, to the island of Lampedusa. Thousands of people have arrived on the southernmost Italian territory in recent days as Europe returns to the crisis levels of irregular migration last seen in 2015.

“The future that Europe wants for itself is at stake here,” Meloni told a press conference. “The future of Europe depends on its ability to tackle epoch-making challenges of our time and the challenge of illegal immigration is for sure one of them.

“We all stake our future on this issue. At the very least we need an EU naval mission against smugglers.”

Scenes of chaos rocked Lampedusa, once renowned for the beauty of its beaches, as more than 8,500 migrants — nearly one and a half times the island’s population — arrived in 200 boats, mainly from Tunisia and Libya, over three days.

EU officials arriving at the island airport yesterday were met by residents who threatened to block their motorcade of limousines in a protest at a situation that many blame on the bloc’s failure to stop illegal migrants.

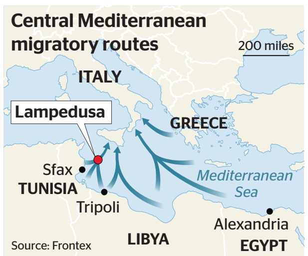
“Lampedusa says stop,” a demonstrator said. “We don’t want tent camps. This message is for Europe and for the Italian government. Lampedusa residents are tired. Meloni told the protesters: “We’re working on it … we are doing our best.”

The Italian Red Cross, which runs the island’s overcrowded migration centre, said 2,500 migrants were being housed in a space designed for 400 people. Others have been moved to Sicily or the Italian mainland.

Television pictures have shown migrants climbing fences and clashing with police who try to stop them from boarding overcrowded boats to southern Italy, posing a major political problem for Meloni, who came to power last year with a pledge to cut migration.

Figures published by the EU’s Frontex border agency last week recorded a 96 per cent increase in irregular crossings via the central Mediterranean route to Italy this year.

Nearly 128,000 migrants have arrived in Italy so far this year, almost double the figure at the same point last year and accounting for more than half of all irregular border crossings into the EU picked up by Frontex. Official EU



figures this month predicted that more than a million asylum seekers would register claims this year. In 2015, 1.2 million asylum claims were lodged, contributing to Brexit and boosting support for anti-immigrant parties.

Officials in Tunisia expelled hundreds of sub-Saharan migrants yesterday from the port of Sfax, a gateway for the sea crossing. About 200 migrants “who were preparing to make the clandestine boat trip” to Europe were arrested, official sources said.

Matteo Salvini, Meloni’s deputy in the ruling coalition, has described the latest influx as an “act of war”.

Potentially outflanking Meloni, the head of the League party is hosting Marine Le Pen, the French right-wing leader, at his party’s annual rally in northern Italy, resurrecting the spectre of extremism before the European elections next year. Meloni has demanded that EU leaders discuss the crisis at the next European Council in Brussels next month at the risk of opening deep divisions between north and south, east and west over how to solve the crisis.

“If we don’t work seriously all together to fight the illegal departures, the numbers of this will not only overwhelm the border countries, but all of the others,” she said.

Meloni’s cabinet is expected today to approve tough measures including new detention and repatriation centres and extending the maximum time migrants can be held for. In a shift from Italy’s previous focus on sharing the burden by distributing migrants across Europe, she will press for measures to stop people arriving in the first place. “A stop to departures is necessary,” she said.

Meloni is pushing the EU to accelerate a €785 million deal with Tunisia to stop the flow of migrants. This would be combined with a European naval mission that would have a mandate to block boats, although this risks breaching international law.

She is pressing the EU to send military vessels that could operate within Tunisia’s waters to stop boats carrying migrants. Under maritime law, neither Italian nor other EU ships are allowed to operate in the 12-mile territorial zone off Tunisia. In international waters, naval vessels cannot legitimately stop boats carrying migrants if the vessels are seaworthy.

Meloni has criticised Operation Sophia, an EU navy mission that ended in 2020, for having created “a pull factor, an element of push for migratory flows rather than a block” because it rescued migrant vessels.

During the joint visit von der Leyen set out a ten-point plan to help Italy, including tougher criminal penalties for people smugglers.

Von der Leyen also vowed to increase access to legal channels for migrants, saying “the better we are with legal migration the stricter we can be with irregular migration”. She added: “Irregular migration is a European challenge and it needs a European answer. So we are in this together. Italy can count on the EU. We will decide who comes to the EU and under what circumstance and not the smugglers and traffickers.”



Grim tide brings flood victims ashore

Libya
Tom Kington Benghazi

The bodies of about a thousand victims of the flooding that swept through Derna last week have been found in the sea, emergency workers have said.

A Libyan rescue team reported seeing at least 600 bodies in the Mediterranean 12 miles east of the devastated city, while a Maltese team discovered another 400 corpses washed up on a nearby beach.

The flood, powered by a freak storm that crushed two dams above the city, sent a wall of water seven metres high through Derna, killing as many as 11,000 people and sweeping entire neighbourhoods out to sea.

At least 891 buildings were destroyed, according to Libyan media, and a mental illness epidemic is looming among survivors who are grieving lost family members, said Manoelle Carton of Doctors Without Borders. “People want to help search for bodies but they will collapse in a few weeks,” she said. “Now the mental health crisis is a priority.”

Tamer Ramadan, head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Libya, said that local emergency workers, many of whom had lost loved ones, were also vulnerable. “They are victims and responders at the same time. They help but they need help,” he said.

The risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera is rising among the 30,000 people left homeless, said Carton. “Libya last had a cholera victim in 1995 but it could return.”

Rescue teams continued to arrive from all over the world, with 35 Russian doctors flying in and Turkey increasing its presence, in a move that could help build ties with the eastern Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar. President Erdogan of Turkey has backed Haftar’s rivals running western Libya for years.

Four Greek rescuers died yesterday after a vehicle they were travelling was involved in a crash. Their bus, carrying 19 workers, collided with an oncoming vehicle between Benghazi and Derna.

Britain has contributed £1 million but James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, said the presence of two rival administrations, which emerged after Colonel Gaddafi’s ousting in 2011, hindered aid.

Britain sent aid after the Turkish earthquakes in February and the recent earthquake in Morocco — countries that had a “high-functioning government that we could liaise with”, Cleverly said. “Sadly, in that eastern part of Libya we just don’t have that.”

As corpses continue to be retrieved, the Libyan Red Cross challenged UN claims that 11,300 people had died, saying the number “adds to the confusion and distress of families of the missing”.

EU seeks G7 ban on Russian diamonds

European Union
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

The European Union is running into opposition from India and De Beers over a proposed ban on Russian diamonds which would cut the world’s biggest producer of uncut gems out of the global market.

The G7 and the EU are pushing for the ban to reinforce sanctions in order to limit Moscow’s ability to fund its war in Ukraine.

Alrosa, a company owned by the Russian state, mines a third of all the world’s diamonds, making more than £3 billion a year for the Kremlin.

The proposal has triggered wrangling over how the ban would be enforced. There are two rival camps: Belgium and the EU — due to Antwerp’s role as a global diamond trading centre — versus the South African company De Beers and the World Diamond Council, which has the support of India, where almost all of the world’s diamonds are cut.

While the volume of imported Russian stones into the EU, via Antwerp, has dropped by more than 95 per cent, global prices have remained stable, suggesting the gems are finding alternative routes into the United States and other G7 markets.

Europe is pushing for a direct ban on both rough and polished Russian diamonds that would kick in on January 1 next year, with the rolling-out of a tracing and enforcement system throughout 2024.

French told to budget by ‘cooking like Granny’
Page 35

Thousands turn out to amplify indigenous Voice
Page 36

of Europe at stake’

VALERIA FERRARO/GETTY IMAGES; YARA NARDI/REUTERS





A coastguard boat brings the latest group of rescued migrants into the harbour in Lampedusa, left; Ursula von der Leyen and Giorgia Meloni visit the island, above; migrants are packed into the territory’s reception centre, below



Trump: I like the idea of a female running-mate

United States
Will Pavia New York

Donald Trump has said he likes the idea of having a female running-mate for the election next year and will consider the governor of South Dakota, who has appeared on stage with him.

His remarks in a television interview yesterday put fresh attention on Kristi Noem, whom Trump has described as a “warrior for American values”.

They followed reports late last week that Noem, a married mother of three, was having an affair with Corey Lewandowski, 49, Trump’s long-time adviser.

A representative for Noem, 51, has dismissed the stories in the New York Post and Mail Online, describing them as a “predictable” attack on the governor after she supported Trump in a rally at Rapid City, South Dakota.

Noem’s allies cast her appearance beside Trump as an audition, showcasing the image of a potential Republican presidential ticket. Behind the stage, some supporters held “Trump-Noem 2024” signs. The Rapid City Journal said the governor teased the crowd with the idea. The newspaper reported that she said people had asked if Trump would name her, pausing before adding “… the most popular and favourite governor”.

Trump’s team has deferred questions about his potential running-mate until after he has secured the nomination. Asked in a lengthy interview on the Sunday NBC show *Meet the Press* if he was leaning towards selecting a woman, he said: “I like the concept but we’re going to pick the best person. But I do like the concept, yes.”

He said Noem had been “a great governor” and “she gave me a very full-throated endorsement, a beautiful endorsement actually”. He added: “And you know, [South Dakota has] been a very good state for me. And certainly she’d be one of the people I’d consider, or for something else maybe.”

Trump appeared with Noem before Mount Rushmore during his 2020 campaign, when she gave him a replica of the mountain in which his face was carved, beside those of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt.

After he lost the election, Noem was regarded as a potential candidate to lead the Republican Party. She told The New York Times last year that Trump did not offer her party “the best chance” to recapture the White House. But she appears to have changed her mind.

Asked last month if she would join the contest, she told Fox News no one could win “as long as Trump’s in the race… So why run if you can’t win?” She said in an interview with Newsmax, the cable news and digital media site, that she would agree to be his running-mate “in a heartbeat”.

Claims that Noem was having an affair with Lewandowski were published in the New York Post at the weekend. The newspaper said her husband, Bryon, moved out of the governor’s mansion two years ago. Noem has told supporters she expects that rival candidates will spread “ugly, hateful misinformation in an attempt to destroy me and my family because of my opinions”.

Lewandowski, who is also married, has not commented on the allegations.



Kristi Noem, the governor of South Dakota, said her rivals would spread ugly rumours

In the wings of the United Nations general assembly tomorrow Alexander De Croo, the Belgian prime minister, will meet Cyrille Vigneron, chief executive of Cartier, alongside other diamond retailers to build pressure for a ban that will involve restructuring the global market in gems.

“We’re talking about restructuring a global market by fencing off the G7 market from Russian diamonds,” said a Belgian official. “Russia is the biggest supplier globally. With this system, we are cutting them out, leaving them in an inferior market with lower prices. We are slashing the financial flows from this sector. This is something for the long haul.”



Russia is home to half of the world’s biggest diamond mines, but under current rules, known as the Kimberley process, only uncut and unpolished stones are traceable by their country of origin.

American retailers, representing some 55 per cent of the consumer market, have already shifted purchasing away from Antwerp to Mumbai to buy ostensibly “Indian” diamonds, some of which are actually polished Russian gems.

De Beers, with India, favours a trust-based registration system via which the industry would control use of and access to data on the source of polished diamonds. Europe, by contrast, is pushing for a system based on physical customs checks which would involve opening and inspecting packages of rough diamonds, recording weight and value. Cutters and polishers would also have to register and report on a public ledger if they were processing Russian diamonds under the scheme, so the gems could be traced. “Adding traceability with physical controls will allow us to cut off Russian rough diamonds,” the Belgian official added. The G7 accounts for 70 per cent of a global trade worth £77 billion a year and the ban would freeze Russia out into an inferior market based predominantly in India and China.

Tracking would take place through a public ledger to be developed next year and would be a similar model to the Swift international payments system between banks, which Russia has already been largely excluded from. “Russian diamonds are not for ever,” said the Belgian official.

At least 20 De Beers employees were killed in a road accident in South Africa yesterday. The bus involved was taking staff from the Venetia mine, one of the biggest diamond mines in the country, said a transport official in Limpopo province, in the north of the country.

Original Star Wars X-wing found in collector’s garage

Will Pavia

The craft had lost two of its side windows and its fuselage bore the scorch marks of laser blasts, yet when it emerged from a cardboard box in Los Angeles it was treated like a holy relic — for this was the X-wing fighter from the 1977 *Star Wars* film.

The 20-inch model was built by an Oscar-winning special effects team for the George Lucas film, supposedly carrying the leading pilot of the Rebel Alliance into a daring assault on the Death Star. Found in one of the garages of Greg Jein, a visual effects artist and prolific collector who died last year aged 76, it is expected to sell for $400,000.

Jein’s garages and two storage units also contained a hairpiece worn by William Shatner, playing Captain Kirk in *Star Trek*, along with nearly every outfit Kirk boldly wore going where no man had gone before. Mr Spock’s Vulcan robe was found, and a lute Leonard Nimoy strummed in several episodes.

Jein also had Batman’s utility belt and several of his “batarangs” from the television series starring Adam West. These were among more than 550 models, props and costumes in Jein’s collection, which also included some of his own work, including a model built for the alien mothership in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

They are being sold by Heritage Auctions in Dallas, with the X-wing the star of the collection. A similar model raised nearly $2.4 million last year.

Jein rescued some memorabilia from studio lots that would otherwise have been thrown away.

World

Russia's crimes include ecocide, says Ukraine

Ukraine
Marc Bennetts Donetsk region

The shell-scarred sign stood next to a cluster of blackened trees in the Holy Mountains national park in eastern Ukraine. "Look After Nature," it read, the words a bitter reminder of a more peaceful time before Russia's invasion.

A few steps away, burnt-out Russian military hardware lay abandoned on the edge of the missile-shredded forest.

This once idyllic national park, known as the "lungs" of the Donetsk industrial region, was home to health retreats for miners and children's holiday camps. President Putin's forces were forced to retreat last year from the nearby town of Sviatohirsk, but the park they left behind is an apocalyptic landscape of dead and dying trees.

About 20 square miles of its forest has been destroyed by Russian incendiary Grad rockets and aerial bombs, according to Ukraine's environmental protection ministry.

While the terrifying human cost of the war has been well documented, Putin's army has also ravaged the country's environment, from its forests to its Black Sea coast, where thousands of dolphins are said to have died as a result of Russia's naval activity. Its land, air and water have been polluted and its biodiversity threatened.

In addition to genocide, Ukraine has accused Russia of ecocide: the deliberate destruction of its natural environment. Prosecutors in Kyiv are amassing evidence to persuade the International Criminal Court to formally acknowledge ecocide as a crime.

Ruslan Strilets, the environmental minister, called the destruction at Holy Mountains an "offence against nature" and vowed that Russia would "answer for every burnt tree".

Serhiy Pryymachuk, director of the state-owned park, said hundreds of endangered pine trees and the ancient chalk slopes they thrive on have been lost to Russia's military aggression. "Almost all of them were destroyed by fires and explosions," he said.

Oak trees, some of which are hundreds of years old, have been "saturated with metal fragments," said Pryymachuk. "They won't fall down like the pine trees, but they will get sick because insects will infest the holes."

No one knows what has become of the forest's wildlife, which included boars, deer, foxes, moose and racoons. Scientists are also trying to determine how badly the soil has been poisoned, including by phosphorous bombs and debris from tanks and other weaponry.

The park, which takes its name from a nearby Orthodox Christian monastery, was heavily mined by Russian troops, creating additional risks for its eventual clean-up. "We've been able to de-mine 50 hectares out of 11,800 so far," said Volodymyr Savchenko, a staff member. "Just imagine how many years it will take to clear all the mines."

Ukraine is now the most heavily mined country in the world, with 67,000 square miles of the country — an area greater than England and Wales combined — contaminated, according to the Globsec think tank.

Holy Mountains is not the only place where trees have been destroyed: more than 20 national parks and nature reserves have seen fighting or are occupied by the Russian army. Even before the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in June, which sent floodwaters across southern Ukraine, the cost of the environmental damage caused by the war was estimated at more than £40 billion.

"This is ecocide, 100 per cent," said Ivan Rusev, head of the Tuzly Lagoons national park. "Russia's destruction of our nature is akin to the destruction of Ukrainians."

Additional reporting by Oleksii Kulyk

KCNA/EPA



Sergei Shoigu, the defence minister, with Kim Jong-un in Vladivostok, where they toured the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov

Putin's parting gift: drones and body armour

Russia
Gavin Blair, Samantha Berkhead

On the final leg of his tour of Russia, Kim Jong-un inspected hypersonic missiles, nuclear-capable bombers and a warship. The North Korean leader's six-day visit to Russia and meeting with President Putin has caused disquiet in the West over whether Kim will supply munitions for use against Ukraine in return for advanced Russian weapons and space technology.

As his trip ended yesterday, Kim was presented with five explosive drones, a reconnaissance drone and a bullet-proof vest. His armoured train departed after a farewell ceremony at a railway station in Artyom, a far eastern Russian city about 124 miles from the North Korea border. It was Kim's longest foreign trip since he took power in late 2011. He visited food industry businesses, furthering speculation that in return for weaponry, North Korea may receive food aid.

Twenty-four hours earlier he had arrived in Artyom and met Sergei Shoigu, the defence minister, to inspect military aircraft, including Tu-22 strategic bombers.

Shoigu and Sergei Kobylash, the commander of Russia's long-range bomber force, explained to Kim that cruise missiles for the Tu-160 have a range of more than 4,000 miles. Kim was also shown hypersonic Kinzhal missiles.

Shoigu and Kim then travelled to Vladivostok, where the North Korean leader was shown around the frigate, Marshal Shaposhnikov, by Nikolai Yevmenov, the commander-in-chief of the Russian navy.

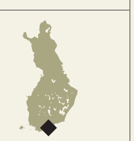
On Saturday night Kim attended a performance of the ballet *Sleeping Beauty* but left after the first act.

President Yoon of South Korea called military co-operation between North Korea and Russia "illegal and unjust". Yoon, who is due to address the UN general assembly in New York this week, told AP: "Any nuclear attack by North Korea will be met with a swift, overwhelming and decisive response that will bring about the end of the regime."

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Oliver Moody buttons up for a chilly visit to the laboratory in Helsinki where most of the world's icebreakers are born

Oliver Moody
HELSINKI





If it were not for the icicles hanging from the ceiling you might mistake the elongated pool for an Olympic swimming venue. On closer inspection the surface turns out to be coated with a fine layer of ice.

Monitored by three men from a gantry overhead, a small yellow hovercraft chomps its way through the frosting, spewing out water through the skirts at its sides.

True to the national stereotype, one of the Finnish workers has stripped down to a plaid shirt while the foreign visitors shiver and button their jackets against the ambient chill.

This facility, near Helsinki's container port, is where most of the world's icebreakers are born, from Argentinian research vessels bound for the Antarctic to a new fleet for the Swedish coastguard.

The oceans are warming and the sea ice retreats with almost every passing winter. Some Baltic ports that were once icebound for six months at a stretch are now navigable for most of the year.



France's Le Commandant Charcot is the first luxury cruise icebreaker

In 2017 a Russian tanker made the first complete voyage through the northern Arctic route by a commercial vessel travelling without an escorting icebreaker. Russia now allows oil tankers to make the trip even if their hulls are not reinforced against the ice, prompting warnings of an impending environmental disaster.

Yet global warming has its upsides for Aker Arctic, one of the remnants of Finland's previously mighty state-owned shipbuilders. The poles are opening up to mining prospectors, science missions and boatloads of tourists.

The French have bought the world's first luxury cruise icebreaker. Finnish vessels have traversed the Northwest Passage in 25 days, a journey that took Roald Amundsen three years.

Finland originally developed the industry as a matter of necessity. "We have been forced into this situation," said Reko-Antti Suojanen, Aker Arctic's managing director. "During the winter the sea freezes and 90 per cent of our import and export is by sea." The state still maintains nine icebreakers, although there is a joke that the crews always go on strike at the first sign of winter.

The Wartsila shipyards flourished at the start of the Cold War, building dozens of icebreakers for the Soviet Union. Then the company went bust a few days before the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Today most of the vessels are built in China and South Korea but the designs still come from engineers in Helsinki. The technology has evolved: nuclear reactors, engines that run on LNG or hydrogenated vegetable oil, ships that crash sideways through the ice.

Each hull and propulsion system is tested in miniature, powering its way through a 75m pool. Nozzles spray water that freezes before it hits the surface, settling like snowflakes as the ice sheet thickens millimetre by millimetre.

The trick, Suojanen explains, is not to try to cut laterally through the ice like an axe, but to bend it downwards like a spoon cracking the topping on a crème brûlée.

The elephant in the room is Moscow, long the company's biggest customer and still the dominant player in the market. Glass display cases in Aker Arctic's office hold half a dozen model Russian ships.

Nowhere on the planet has climate change opened up so much potential for new shipping routes as in the Russian Arctic. In Finland, however, which spent 200 years breaking free of the Kremlin's orbit, times have changed. The invasion of Ukraine cut off the company's most lucrative cash cow in a single stroke. "We had to stop all projects we had with Russian ships," said Suojanen. "It was a big share."

Girl, 5, killed as Italian aerobatic team jet crashes in fireball

Italy
James Imam Milan

A five-year-old girl was killed when an aircraft from the Italian military aerobatics team crashed near Turin.

Laura Origliasso, travelling with her parents and brother in the family car on an adjoining road, is thought to have died after being struck by flying debris as the Frecce Tricolori jet hit the ground and exploded in a fireball.

The accident happened on Saturday afternoon shortly after ten planes from the Italian air force's aerobatic squad took off from the Turin-Caselle airport on a training exercise.

Video shot by an onlooker shows one of the planes peeling off suddenly from the two tight V-formations before dropping away. The pilot ejected and opened his parachute shortly before the plane hit the ground. Parts of the aircraft broke through a fence surrounding the field's perimeter and smashed into the car carrying Paolo Origliasso, 49, his wife, Veronica Vernetto, 41, their 12-year-old son and Laura.

A bystander who tried to help the family told the Corriere della Sera newspaper: "We couldn't do anything because there were flames everywhere."

Laura's parents and brother were treated in hospital for burns.

Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister, said that the tragedy had left her "without words", adding: "In the name of the entire government, I express my solidarity and extend my condolences to the family."

A celebratory event planned for yesterday by the Tricolore to mark 100 years since the foundation of the Italian air force was cancelled. Public prosecutors have ordered an inquiry into the cause of the crash.

Oscar Del Dò, 35, the pilot, has flown with the unit for three years.

France on high alert for royal and papal visits

France
Adam Sage Paris

All police leave has been cancelled in France as the authorities try to contain terrorist and public order threats surrounding the visits of King Charles and Queen Camilla and the Pope.

Gérald Darmanin, the interior minister, told police chiefs that they faced a "particularly intense" week. Officers are also providing security for the Rugby World Cup across the country.

There have been reports in Sada al-Malahim, al-Qaeda's magazine, that the terrorist group has threatened to attack a French ministry. Darmanin said: "The level of terrorist threat weighing on our country demands the maintenance of a very high level of vigilance."

Officials are also keen to avoid public order disturbances during the royal visit to Paris and Bordeaux.

Eight thousand extra officers will be deployed on Wednesday when Charles and Camilla start their visit with a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and attend a state dinner at the Palace of Versailles. There will be 10,000 extra on Thursday when they go to Notre Dame cathedral.

On Friday, when they travel to Bordeaux, and the Pope arrives in Marseilles, 12,000 more officers will be on duty. There will be 30,000 extra on Saturday when he presides over Mass at the Stade Vélodrome, where France play rugby against Namibia on Thursday.

MANFRED GOTTSCHALK/GETTY IMAGES



Ticketing nightmare in amphitheatre of dreams

Staged battles have returned to the Colosseum as touts defy officials to sell tickets to the amphitheatre at inflated prices (James Imam writes). Scalpers have been using autonomous online programmes to snap up tokens as soon as they emerge. Tickets to the ancient Roman theatre of grand spectacles officially cost €16 but touts are selling them on websites for up to €80.

Reports suggest that for the past seven months official tickets have been difficult to find online.

Alessandro Onorato, Rome's tourism chief, called on Gennaro Sangiuliano, Italy's culture minister, to intervene. A source at the culture ministry said the government planned to introduce named tickets for visitors, who would have to produce photo ID.

A similar measure is used to combat football touts. In a further measure, the insider said tickets could be reserved for sale at booths.

The Colosseum, completed by the emperor Titus in AD80, draws about 20,000 visitors a day and earned €63 million in ticket sales last year. A study by Deloitte found the site contributed €1.4 billion to Italy's economy in 2022.

The problem of web touts arose when ticket sales moved online during the pandemic. The ticket office reopened in May.

Minister tells crisis-hit French to budget by 'cooking like Granny'

Adam Sage

President Macron's trade minister has provoked a row with a suggestion that French families should cope with inflation by abandoning ready-made meals and preparing their own dishes.

Olivia Grégoire called for cooking lessons in schools to improve family health and finances, under what she called a "grandmother education" in the face of the cost of living crisis.

Her comment infuriated leftwingers who compared her to Marie-Antoinette and depicted her as the symbol of an executive out of touch with ordinary people.

Recent surveys indicate that most French families do still cook fresh produce regularly but younger generations seem to have a growing appetite for fast food and home deliveries.

Grégoire, 44, made the suggestion when interviewed by a panel of readers of the Sud Ouest newspaper, notably about food prices, which were 11.2 per cent higher last month than in August last year. They are climbing significantly faster than inflation as a whole, which was at a year-on-year rate of 4.9 per cent.

"We need to learn again how to cook raw products to avoid buying ready-made [meals], which are more expensive," she said. "Cooking lessons must return to schools. There is a real question of grandmother education about basic, day-to-day cuisine."

Cooking as a subject is largely absent from the national curriculum except for sixth-formers wanting to become chefs. The price of frozen vegetables has risen by 21.7 per cent over the past year, compared with 13.2 per cent for fresh ones. Ready-made meals have gone up by 12.7 per cent, compared with 5 per cent for poultry, 5.7 per cent for beef and 1.7 per cent for fresh fish.



Olivia Grégoire has been mocked as "out of touch"

Le Figaro quoted Philippe Brochard, managing director of the Auchan supermarket chain, as saying that the "first rampart against inflation is the capacity to peel vegetables". He described frozen chips, which are on sale in his stores for €5.15 per kg, as a "luxury". Potatoes cost €1.20 per kg by comparison.

Grégoire faced mockery on the internet and criticism from the government's left-wing opponents. "If there is no bread, eat cake," said Jean-Luc Mélenchon, leader of the radical France Unbowed party, in reference to the comment widely — but wrongly — attributed to Marie-Antoinette amid food shortages before the French Revolution.

"If people are skipping meals, it's not because they do not know how to cook but because they have NOTHING to cook," tweeted Anne Stambach, a France Unbowed MP.

Many internet users quoted Michel Colucci, the late French comic known by his stage-name Coluche, who once said the approach of the French state to poverty was: "Tell us what you need, we'll tell you how to go without it."

Although French commentators often bemoan the decline of the nation's gastronomic ambitions, a poll published in 2020 found that 67 per cent of families prepared their own meals every day. A total of 42 per cent cooked fresh vegetables and fruit daily, and a further 32 per cent every other day.

However, purists are worried that younger generations are turning their backs on traditional cuisine. More than half of French people aged between 18 and 35 eat at McDonald's at least once a month, for instance. They are also increasingly keen on having ready-made meals delivered to their homes, a market that is now worth €10.7 billion a year.

Grégoire dismissed her critics, saying she had delivered a message of "common sense" which was "good for the health and for the wallet, and not only in inflationary times."

Macron makes a U-turn on video games

Adam Sage

Over the summer President Macron denounced video games as a cause of urban violence but now he has said they stimulate art, imagination, economic growth and social unity.

The French leader made the U-turn after gamers criticised him for linking their pastime to the summer's riots. Speaking in June, Macron said: "We sometimes have the feeling that some of [the rioters] are living out, on the streets, the video games that have intoxicated them."

That statement ran against Macron's ambition to turn France into a bastion of professional gaming. Now, in a post on Twitter/X, as 28,000 fans watched matches involving the French esports team, the president was conciliatory, saying: "It is this violence that I condemn, not video games."

He called video games "a ground for artistic experiments, a fascinating place of learning combining all the arts", adding that the sector was not only a source of jobs but brought together gamers around "powerful values".

Minister is caught out over 'eco' trip

Germany
Bruno Waterfield

Germany's foreign minister is under fire for boasting about taking an eco-friendly bus journey without mentioning that her empty government plane was flying to meet her.

Annalena Baerbock, 42, of the Greens Party, had flown from Berlin to Austin, Texas, with the largest aircraft in the fleet, an Airbus A350. Its comforts include a bed and shower, but she left it in Austin and was driven for two and a half hours to Houston. She kept her 575,000 Instagram followers abreast of her road trip, including a meal at a roadside diner.

As the Bild am Sonntag newspaper noted, she did not mention that the empty plane flew 147 miles to pick her up in Houston. It burnt 4.5 tonnes of kerosene fuel before flying her 342 miles to Wichita Falls.

When she took office Baerbock promised to make her travel as green as possible. The foreign ministry said it had "thoroughly examined various means of transport" for the trip.

JOHANNES SIMON/GETTY IMAGES



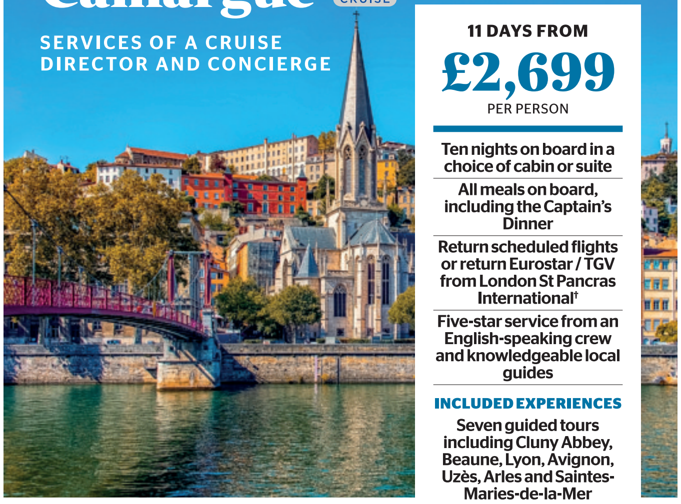
Prost! Munich's annual Oktoberfest is under way until October 3 and millions of visitors will be drawn to its parades, concerts, gun salutes . . . and of course the beer

Lyon, Provençal Rhône and the Camargue

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Thousands join march to amplify indigenous Voice

SYDNEY LOW/SHUTTERSTOCK



More than 10,000 supporters of the "yes" vote marched through Melbourne

Australia
Bernard Lagan Sydney

Tens of thousands of Australians staged rallies around the country yesterday to fight for constitutional recognition of the nation's Aboriginal people before a divisive nationwide referendum on the issue next month.

The vote, if carried on October 14, would also give the descendants of Australia's first inhabitants a formal Indigenous Voice to Parliament, allowing them to be heard on government proposals affecting them.

More than 200 years since British colonisation, Aboriginal people, whose ancestors have lived on the continent for about 60,000 years, still have markedly shorter lives than other Australians, poorer education, and are much more likely to be unemployed and to be jailed.

Anthony Albanese, the Labor prime minister, promised the referendum within minutes of being elected in May 2022 but it is strongly opposed by opposition conservative parties.

The poll has been described by some commentators as Australia's Brexit moment, a chance for ordinary voters to challenge metropolitan "elites", and the "no" vote seems odds-on to win.

A poll conducted this month showed it with 56 per cent support and the "yes" camp at 43 per cent.

Critics of the referendum, led by Peter Dutton, the opposition leader, argue that enshrining a Voice to Parliament in the constitution will do little to help Aboriginal people and will lead to years of litigation surrounding government decisions.

They also argue it would confer special privileges on Australia's indigenous people.



Albanese has for months tried to maintain a message of optimism but at the weekend he warned of the risk of a "no" result.

"This is a hand, outstretched, asking for the hand to be joined. That's all it is. Who in Australia, when a hand goes out, dismisses it and doesn't shake? That's what we're asking of Australians," he said.

In Melbourne more than 10,000 supporters marched through the streets yesterday, some with banners reading: "You're the voice, vote yes". Tens of thousands more gathered in Sydney, Canberra, Perth, Brisbane, Darwin, Hobart and Alice Springs, buoying hopes of a late surge of support.

Linda Burney, the minister for indigenous Australians, said she was "almost crying" at the strength of the large turnout across the nation.

"It is truly overwhelming to look out over this crowd and see you. To know where your hearts are, to know where your spirit lives. And that you, like us, want to embrace this opportunity to move this country forward together," she told the crowds attending the Melbourne rally.

Tanya Plibersek, Australia's environment minister and a Sydney MP, told a Sydney rally of about 15,000 people: "Australians are a fair people. We are an egalitarian people. We love justice, and we love one another. Let's show that love and decency to the world on October 14 and vote 'yes'."

To pass, the referendum needs majority support across Australia but also a majority in at least four of the nation's six states. Voting is compulsory, with non-voters who don't have a valid reason liable to a fine.

They will be asked: "A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

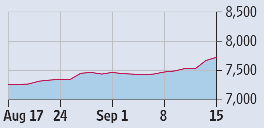
Australians have rejected most proposals for constitutional amendments, approving only eight out of 44 referendums since federation in 1901.

Aiming to change the national mood, the "yes" campaign launched a television advertising blitz at the weekend featuring an Aboriginal boy asking: "Will I grow up in a country that hears my voice? Will I live as long as other Australians? Will I get to go to a good school?"

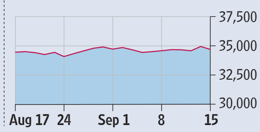
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close. Change on the week)

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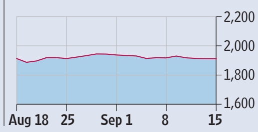


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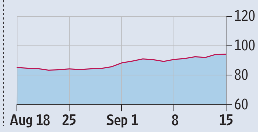


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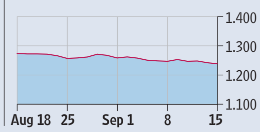


Brent crude (6pm)
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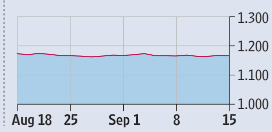


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Gen Z staff admit to not being so intelligent when it comes to AI

Max Kendix

Forty per cent of young professionals admit that they pretend to know more about artificial intelligence than they really do to look "in the know", research has found.

Gen Z workers, defined as those aged 18 to 26, are 10 per cent more likely than the general population to lie about having used an AI tool at work, according to a survey by LinkedIn. Nearly half of those in Gen Z say they feel overwhelmed by the technology and are conscious of falling behind and 41 per cent worry that their colleagues are more clued up than they are.

Data from LinkedIn has shown that since November last year there has been a 21-fold global increase in English-language jobs mentioning new AI technologies such as ChatGPT. About 17 in 1,000 workers on the platform can be classed as "AI talent".

Charlotte Davies, a career expert and group manager of consumer communications at LinkedIn, said: "Hot off the heels of the pandemic, once again professionals are adapting to another wave of change as AI becomes more prominent in the workplace. It's understandable that getting up to speed can feel overwhelming.

"Young professionals have experienced a significant amount of change over the past few years. They had to contend with the huge disruption caused by the pandemic and now a new era of AI is poised to mean further implications in our working lives."

Older professionals, in the Gen X age category of 43 to 58, appear to be less concerned about AI pretences in the workplace. About 18 per cent admit to pretending to know more than they do on the topic and 25 per cent feel as if their colleagues know more than them.

Gen Z are most likely to have used the technology, whose most available forms remain generative text and image models such as ChatGPT and Midjourney, with 82 per cent giving it a go, compared with only 38 per cent of Gen X.

Across generational divides more than half of Britons plan to use AI to eliminate boring work tasks and 42 per cent say they can use AI tools to answer the questions they are too embarrassed to ask their colleagues.

Rents soar as rates shut out buyers

More than a third of house sellers reduce prices

Tom Howard

Residential rents across Britain are rising at their fastest on record as high interest rates shut would-be buyers out of the property market.

Monthly rental costs are on average 12 per cent higher than they were this time last year, up £140 to breach £1,300 for the first time, according to the estate agent Hamptons.

Separate research from the property website Rightmove suggests that more than a third of homes for sale have had their asking prices reduced as vendors try to drum up demand.

"Each passing month has ushered in a new rental market record," Aneisha Beveridge, head of research at Hamptons, said. "Rents have risen more in the last 12 months than they did between 2015 and 2019."

Rents across the UK have increased by 29 per cent, or nearly £300 a month, since the beginning of the pandemic, Hamptons' data shows, pushed higher by a prolonged imbalance between supply and demand for rental homes.

The fastest rises are in London, where rents have increased by 17.1 per cent in the past year. In Scotland rents are up 13.4 per cent year-on-year, meaning that for the first time it is more expensive to rent a home north of the border than in the midlands. Rents in Wales have had the weakest growth, having risen only 3.4 per cent.

Demand has been bolstered by rising mortgage rates, which have stopped would-be buyers from getting on to the proprty ladder, and migration levels are also at record highs. Developers claim that a complex planning system is stopping them building as many new houses as they would like and it has been repeatedly suggested that smaller landlords are selling up because of changes to regulations and rising mortgage rates.

"Many mortgaged landlords are being squeezed just as tightly as tenants," Beveridge said. "Higher rents are only going some way towards helping mortgaged landlords to balance their books, rather than boosting their profit. This is one of the reasons we haven't seen large numbers of new landlords come into the market."

Those landlords looking to sell also face an uphill battle. Price reductions have crept up to a level not seen since the start of 2011, according to the Rightmove data, which indicates that 36.3 per cent of all flats and houses on the market have had at least one price reduction since being listed. Of those homes that have had a reduction, asking prices have been cut by 6.2 per cent, on average, which works out at £22,700.

Andy McHugo, an estate agent in Birmingham, said: "In almost twenty years of selling homes I feel that this summer and last summer have been the most subdued."

Typically, Rightmove would see a rise in asking prices in September as the autumn selling season, the second busiest time of year, gets under way. Asking prices have only increased by 0.4 per cent over the past month, however, to an average of £366,281.

JACOB KING/PA



Melanie Smith, left, the former boss of Ocado Retail, has been named as the chief executive of NEC Group, which runs the NEC Arena in Birmingham, host to the annual Crufts dog show

CBI 'crisis time' amid £3m cash call

Alex Ralph

The CBI is preparing to update members this week about its annual meeting amid significant uncertainty over its finances.

The troubled business group is seeking emergency funding from members while it explores a contentious merger with Make UK, a lobby group for the manufacturing sector.

The CBI was one of Britain's most influential business groups until it was thrown into crisis this year by a workplace misconduct scandal which led to an exodus of corporate members and it being frozen out of ministerial access.

It is trying to raise £3 million with HSBC attempting to encourage members to support the drive, The Sunday Times reported. HSBC did not respond to a request for comment.

The cash crunch comes days before its delayed annual meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, where members vote on the CBI's auditors and board members and consider its annual report, outlining its finances and governance.

A CBI spokesman said yesterday that it has "experienced some short-term cashflow challenges following an incredibly difficult year for the organisation" and that a "number of options are being explored to resolve this issue and secure the footing of an organisation that remains in a strong medium to long-term position".

The organisation declined to confirm whether the annual meeting was going ahead. It is understood to be still working out a number of details. One member, speaking confidentially, said they were surprised the CBI had not made a "more overt" push for financial support from members sooner and that there was also concern among trade associations over a potential merger with Make UK. They added that the CBI may be seeking to secure a financial lifeline until January, when a large proportion of members traditionally renew annual subscriptions.

Another member said: "It's certainly crisis time and I've been shocked by the lack of outreach, not one personal contact to explain the situation and encourage continuing membership. I'm puzzled as to why they haven't hit the phones to every single member."

Rough year ahead, page 40

Need to know

1 The number of pubs being demolished or converted for other uses has risen by more than 50 per cent, figures show. In the three months to the end of June 230 pubs disappeared from communities in England and Wales. In the preceding quarter the figure was 153. Among the uses for converted pubs are housing, offices and nurseries. Page 22

2 The European Union is running into opposition from India and De Beers over a proposed ban on Russian diamonds, which would remove the world's biggest producer of uncut gems from the global market. Pages 32-33

3 Residential rents across Britain are rising at their fastest pace on record as high interest rates shut would-be buyers out of the property market. Monthly rental costs are on average 12 per cent higher than they were this time last year, up £140 to breach £1,300 for the first time, according to the estate agent Hamptons. Page 37

4 Forty per cent of young professionals admit that they pretend to know more about artificial intelligence than they really do to look "in the know", research has found. Page 37

5 The CBI is preparing to update members this week about its annual meeting scheduled for Wednesday amid significant uncertainty over its finances. The troubled business group is seeking emergency funding from members. Page 37

6 A Cambridge-based start-up with aspirations to become "the next Arm" is claiming a breakthrough that could speed up the development of the next generation of computers. Riverlane said it had produced the first chip for quantum computers that can deal with one of the primary obstacles holding back their development.

7 The police in Shenzhen in China have detained some staff at the wealth management business of China Evergrande Group in the latest turmoil at the giant property company.

8 One of the banks that floated CAB Payments on the stock market this summer is now betting against shares of the cross-border transfer business. The asset management arm of JPMorgan Chase has a 0.5 per cent net short position in CAB shares, which have lost almost a quarter of their value since the company made its debut in London. Page 40

9 The chief executive of Frasers Group, Michael Murray, described the business rates regime as a disaster and urged the government to step in with a transformation as quickly as possible Pages 42-43

10 Businesses selling the chemicals used in camping stoves, fertilisers, rat poison and a fuel for model steam engines will have to comply with new regulations from October 1, introduced in response to the Manchester Arena terrorist attack. Page 45

Labour backers in the City





Robert Lea meets the movers and shakers hoping to put Starmer in No 10 as a poll shows City support growing

Meet the "fifth columnists" of high finance in the heart of the City.

Here, a director of Blackstone, the private equity firm that is a cornerstone of American capitalism, alongside a senior figure at UK Finance, the trade body for the Square Mile.

There, a specialist in alternative investments in a huddle with a spokesperson for Nationwide, the last of the great building societies.

They are bound by one thing: they want to get Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves into Downing Street. They are the people that call themselves Labour in the City.

Around the corner from Austin Friars, a hotbed for furtive meetings of clandestine sects over the centuries, Labour in the City met last week to throw around some thoughts about how Labour in government might attract business investment.

With the presence of a frontbench shadow minister, the meeting was immediately redolent of the famous prawn cocktail offensive in the 1990s of the late Mo Mowlam, who as shadow business minister led the charge to project the credibility of new Labour.

Three decades on this felt more like a lobster canapé engagement. These followers of the Keir-and-Rachel project had come together in the shiny glass offices of UK Finance, the fulcrum of the financial services sector from which Starmer and Reeves announced their "economic mission" earlier this year.

The white wine was suitably chilled, the red wine eminently passable and the catering on porcelain platters an altogether sophisticated affair. Not a pint of ale or curly sandwich in sight. This was Labour on manoeuvres, one of a series of meetings this autumn of Labour supporters who work in financial services as well as in law and accountancy, as the party prepares for a war footing before a general election that may be as little as nine months away.

The main speaker was Seema Malhotra, a former Accenture management consultant and now a west London MP who was shadow business minister before being recently reshuffled by Starmer to the shadow skills brief.



Her support act was Andrew Dowler, Blackstone's government relations adviser and as polished and urbane an old school financial public relations practitioner as there is. During a career at the old Finsbury and Financial Dynamics agencies, he advised executives during takeover battles and acted as representative to the likes of the Terra Firma private equity titan Guy Hands.

The meeting attracted an audience numbering about 80, more than half of whom were under the age of 40, and many of those in their twenties. The gender split was even but the room was not as ethnically diverse as a constituency meeting would be. This was not a fundraiser nor an attempt to gain converts, for these were all fellow-travellers, Labour members or supporters.

The debate was not overtly Tory-trashing nor government-bashing; more an earnest and worthy discussion about what Labour should do to help to oil the flow of business investment and how it should position itself. No policy initiatives were delivered, that role

Start-up chancing its arm on chip

James Hurley

A Cambridge-based start-up with aspirations to become "the next Arm" is claiming a breakthrough that could speed up the development of the next generation of computers.

Riverlane, a spin-out from Cambridge University, said it had produced the first chip for quantum computers that could deal with one of the primary obstacles holding back their development and commercial adoption. The company's "quantum decoder chip" is intended to help companies to deal with the high error rates inherent to the technology.

Steve Brierley, founder and chief executive of Riverlane, called the chip a huge breakthrough that gave the company "massive leadership" in the race to become "the next Arm", the British chip designer that floated on Wall Street last week. Riverlane is one of a number of promising UK companies in the emerging quantum computing industry, which promises an exponential increase in computing power.

A normal computer relies on "bits" that are either a "1" or a "0", "on" or "off", so is limited by binary options. Quantum computers use quantum bits, or qubits, that can be 0 or 1 as well as a "superposition" of 0 and 1 — in other words, on and off at the same time, allowing them to mirror the complexity of the subatomic world in a way that classical computers cannot.

This could pave the way for quantum computers to transform industries including healthcare, sustainable energy, advanced materials and logistics.

One of the significant issues holding quantum computers back from being commercially useful, however, is the high number of errors that such systems produce. "Error correction" is therefore required to realise their potential.

Riverlane's chip in effect sits between the quantum system and the human interface, processing the output of the computer and predicting errors so that corrections can be made instantaneously. "Decoding terabytes of errors per second is fundamental to quantum error correction. This requires chips to achieve the necessary speed and efficiency," the company said.

Brierley said: "Until now, no one knew how to decode fast enough to keep up with the data. Without a decoder the process of quantum error correction is not possible. You need a decoder to detect the errors that quantum computers are prone to and correct those errors in real time. Otherwise, you simply cannot do anything useful with a quantum computer."

Several other start-ups are working on decoders but Brierly said "research and testing has shown ours to be the world's most powerful" because it is the first to allow real-time processing.

Riverlane, valued at £150 million and employing 100 people, is working with other start-ups and established hardware companies to test the chip.

Staff arrests add to China Evergrande Group's woes

Alex Ralph

The police in southern China have detained some staff at the wealth management business of China Evergrande Group in the latest turmoil at the giant property company.

Shenzhen city police said over the weekend: "Recently, public security organs took criminal compulsory measures against Du and other suspected criminals at Evergrande Financial Wealth Management Co."

The identity of the individual named was unclear but during protests by investors at Evergrande's Shenzhen headquarters in 2021 Du Liang was re-

gunning for Tories

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA; ALAMY



Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves's cultivation of business and finance is reminiscent of the efforts of Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam under new Labour

being left to the private meetings around town that Reeves and Jonathan Reynolds, the shadow business secretary, have embarked upon in recent weeks and months.

There was, during the talks, a bit of a downer on the sheer size of the energy transition challenge facing a would-be Labour government and the need to deliver clean power for the data storage behind the digital revolution. There was some tutting about the state of the planning process but no solutions.

There was consensus that the so-called wall of money in the City was unlikely to be deployed while uncertainty reigned over the state of the economy, and even then probably a long time after the result of a general election. There was talk of Labour's big idea of a national wealth fund but no assessment of how that would be financed. There was edge to an exchange on another of the Labour leadership's big projects, Great British Energy, with the question of what that actually might look like left unresolved.

More positive were hopes of what might come about from Reeves's snaffling of Jim O'Neill, the eminent economist Lord O'Neill of Gatley, to advise on small business and technology start-up policy.

After the event those attending talked about the sea change of political engagement in the City before the next general election after the Jeremy Corbyn and Boris Johnson years when both former leaders shunned the Square Mile; that Labour's pitch was now variously looking "reasonable" or "credible" or "sensible"; and that even Tory-leaning fund managers and financial services bosses now appreciated that they may well have to work with a Labour government.

The anecdotal chit-chat was lent added credibility by a new survey from Bloomberg, published yesterday, that found that about two thirds of finance professionals think that an outright win for Starmer's party or a Labour-led coalition would be the "most market-friendly outcome" of the election.

Labour in the City is not an official caucus of the party, rather calling itself "a social group for Labour members and supporters … to provide a social environment for like-minded people to meet and discuss political issues".

It is led by Nick Smith, a director of the Alternative Investment Management Association, and Tanisha Aggarwal, who is in public affairs with Nationwide. They are both wary of commenting publicly on how Labour in the City is funded, whether the party is gaining traction in the Square Mile and how the charm offensive is going.

Dowler is a long-time Labour supporter who has been close to Lord Mandelson, Tony Blair's former fixer-in-chief. He is privately loquacious about the shortcomings of government policies but prefers not to declare in public.

Labour in the City may yet be on the right side of the argument come a general election but the sensitivities of being someone in the City and being outed as a Labour supporter plainly brings its limitations.

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portedly identified by staff as general manager and legal representative of the wealth management unit.

Evergrande could not be reached for comment. The number of people detained, the charges and the date they were taken into custody were unclear.

The group is at the heart of a crisis in China's property sector, which has suffered a series of debt defaults since the end of 2021 and weighed on the country's economy. After coming close to collapse two years ago it remains in the midst of a restructuring plan, including offloading assets, to avoid defaulting on $340 billion of debts.

Shares in Evergrande slumped last month in Hong Kong when trading restarted after they had been suspended for more than a year.

On Friday China's national financial regulator announced that it had approved the takeover of the group's life assurance arm by a new state-owned entity and the group said it had delayed a decision on an offshore debt restructuring from this month until October.

Last week the credit rating agency Moody's cut the outlook on the property sector to negative from stable.

Another British tech firm plans to float in New York

Alex Ralph

The British microchip designer Imagination Technologies is planning to list in New York in the latest blow to efforts to encourage more technology companies to float in the UK.

Imagination has confidentially registered to go public in New York, according to The Sunday Telegraph, following the $54 billion Nasdaq float of Arm, a larger Cambridge-based competitor, last week. The company declined to comment.

Imagination delisted from the London Stock Exchange six years ago when it was taken private by a buyout fund with links to the Chinese state.

The company, based in Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, has previously plotted a stock market return. Two years ago Canyon Bridge, a US private equity firm, hired Lazard, an investment adviser, to consider its options, including an initial public offering.

Canyon Bridge bought Imagination Technologies for £550 million in 2017 after Apple, its largest customer, threw its future into jeopardy. The iPhone maker said it would use its own designs to make graphics chips, sending the Imagination share price tumbling and leaving it vulnerable to a takeover. It subsequently reached a new licensing deal with Apple.

Accounts filed at Companies House show that revenues increased to £120.3 million in 2022 from £111.3 million a year earlier. Profit before tax fell to £17 million from £20.2 million.

Arm's successful float has raised hopes of a recovery in the IPO market. There was a 60 per cent drop in the number of global IPOs last year to 221, from 661 in 2021, according to Boston Consulting Group.

The week ahead

The nine-member Bank of England monetary policy committee is widely expected to raise interest rates from 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent on Thursday, the 15th consecutive increase to borrowing costs.

Another increase is on the cards after data on wage growth showed that earnings are still accelerating at the fastest pace in 22 years, despite signs that other parts of the labour market are beginning to slow down.

Robert Wood, UK economist at Bank of America, said the interest rate decision was a "closer call" than previously as the Bank was near to reaching the peak of its borrowing costs. He added that there was still a possibility that the committee would "skip" making a decision and wait for fresh economic data at its next meeting in November.

Before the rates decision, official figures on inflation for August will be released on Wednesday. Most economists expect there will be a small increase in the annual rate caused by a recent increase in global energy prices. Inflation was running at 6.8 per cent in July and is forecast to hit 7 per cent in August.

However, the committee is likely to look through the temporary blip and focus instead on core measures of inflation and inflation in the services sector, which are expected to drop back again in August.



Swati Dhingra and fellow members of the MPC will decide on rates

TOMORROW

It has not been a happy period for retail investment platforms. Some customers have been liquidating holdings to meet cost of living pressures, while the relative gloom about the UK stock market has not helped confidence.

The whale of the sector, Hargreaves Lansdown, with 1.8 million clients, is due to give a fresh update alongside full-year results to June. At the half-year it managed to push underlying profits 30 per cent higher to £211.9 million, partly thanks to rising net interest income on client money. Analysts are forecasting annual statutory pre-tax profits of £379 million, up from £269 million last year and £366 million the year before. But sentiment is weak, the shares languishing at just a third of their peak in 2019.

Interims Accesso Technology, Big Technologies, Billington, Fintel, Jadestone Energy, Kingfisher, Team17, Trustpilot, Xaar
Finals Hargreaves Lansdown, Litigation Capital, McBride, Naked Wines
Trading updates C&C, Moonpig, Ocado

WEDNESDAY

Half-year results from M&G will give investors an opportunity to gauge the progress of Andrea Rossi, right, who has been in charge of the FTSE 100-listed fund management group for almost a year.

City analysts are expecting the investment business to post adjusted operating profits of £284 million on revenues of £494 million.

UBS has told clients: "We expect the focus to be on operating performance in M&G's asset management and wealth business, and an update on entry into the bulk annuity market."



M&G became a separately listed company when Prudential spun off its UK and European businesses in 2019. However, the lacklustre stock market performance of its shares has fuelled speculation that the business could lose its independence and be bought by a rival. This has put pressure on Rossi, a veteran of the fund management and insurance industries.

Interims Advanced Medical Solutions, Epwin, Judges Scientific, M&G, Oxford Biomedica, Ten Entertainment
Finals Dunelm, Galliford Try, Supermarket Income Reit

THURSDAY

Investors will be eager to see whether another profit upgrade is on the way when Next reveals its interim results. In August the retailer said that a higher level of full-price trading and a strong summer sale had driven a better performance in the latest quarter, prompting management to raise profit guidance this year by £10 million to £845 million.

It was the second time this year that Next has lifted its profit guidance but it would still mark a drop compared with last year's numbers. Analysts have forecast sales of £5.33 billion and profit of £851 million this year, from £5.03 billion and £870 million, respectively, last year.

Investors will look closely at the half-year results from JD Sports, Britain's biggest sportswear retailer, hoping it will strike a more upbeat tone than its American peers have in recent weeks.

Interims Aquis Exchange, Chesnara, Corero Network Security, James Fisher, JD Sports Fashion, Life Science Reit, Next, Octopus Renewables Infrastructure Trust, Strix Group
Finals CVS, DFS Furniture
Trading updates Halma, SSP

FRIDAY

Interims: Ascential, First Tin
Trading update: Investec

Business

Manufacturers fired up for a tough year

Britain's manufacturers are seeing a sharp slowdown in activity and preparing for a potential recession, according to new research (Simon Freeman writes).

The Make UK/BDO manufacturing outlook survey suggests that the positive picture of the first half of the year has gone into reverse, with recruitment plans ceasing and orders slowing at home and abroad.

Make UK has cut its manufacturing growth forecast for this year and expects output to fall. Its forecast for next year is within the margins of no growth at all.

It found that 72.7 per cent of companies believed that policy incentives elsewhere, such as the US Inflation Reduction Act and similar EU measures, were making UK investments harder to justify. A total of 74.1 per cent said a lack of policy consistency in the UK was damaging efforts to build a consistent business environment.

Make UK is calling for a review of the apprenticeship levy, an extension of the 12-month 100 per cent business rates reliefs on green plant machinery and equipment and expansion of research and development tax relief to include capital equipment for green processing and industrial decarbonisation.

Verity Davidge, policy director at Make UK, said: "Manufacturers are … battening down the hatches in the expectation that the next year is going to be anaemic at best."

GEOFF CADDICK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Manufacturers including the steel industry are pessimistic about 2024



Bank that floated CAB Payments shorts its shares

Ben Martin Banking Editor

One of the banks that floated CAB Payments on the stock market this summer is now betting against shares of the cross-border transfer business.

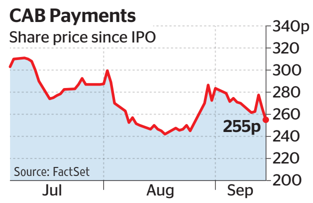
Disclosures to the City regulator show that the asset management arm of JPMorgan Chase has a 0.5 per cent net short position in CAB shares, which have lost almost a quarter of their value since the company made its debut on the London Stock Exchange on July 6.

The JPMorgan wager, which is a bet that CAB's shares have further to fall, was worth about £3 million based on the payment group's closing share price on Friday night. JPMorgan Asset Management is the only short-seller against CAB with a position large enough to require public disclosure to the Financial Conduct Authority.

Although JPMorgan's asset management arm is a separate entity from its investment banking operations, the short position is striking because the group's investment bank played a central role in selling CAB shares to investors at its flotation.

CAB has its roots in Crown Agents Bank, which was founded in 1833 and handled payments for British colonial governments. The modern business focuses on business-to-business cross-border payments and foreign exchange transactions in the emerging markets.

JPMorgan is America's biggest lender and has an extensive investment banking operation in the City of London. It acted as the sole sponsor of CAB's initial public offering (IPO), as well as joint global co-ordinator on the deal with Barclays, earning a fee for arranging the deal. The bank remains a key adviser to CAB through its fee-earning position as the payments group's corporate broker. Brokers act as the main link between a listed company and the stock market.



The flotation of CAB was a key test for London's IPO market, which has been hit by a dearth of deals since the beginning of last year as worries about inflation and the Ukraine war deter companies from selling shares. The flotation put an £851 million valuation on CAB and raised £335 million.

The listing has, however, proved a flop for investors who bought the stock in the IPO for 335p a share. The shares fell by 9.6 per cent on its first day of trading and closed last week at 255p. They are now 24 per cent below their listing price, despite having risen by 5.7 per cent on Wednesday after CAB cheered investors with its maiden set of half-year results, which showed that pre-tax profits had more than doubled to £23.8 million.

Short-selling involves borrowing shares from another investor for a fee and then selling them. The aim is to buy them back at a lower price, pocketing the difference in price. JPMorgan and CAB declined to comment.

Subscription boom at an end as customers cancel to save money

Max Kendix

More than a third of Britons have cut back on their subscriptions as the cost of living crisis bites, research shows.

The waning interest will put further pressure on the business models of pandemic-era stars such as food and drink delivery companies.

People making regular payments for meal kits from businesses such as Hello Fresh or Home Chef have fallen from 13 per cent during the pandemic to 10 per cent in the past two months, according to research by Virgin Media O_2. About 35 per cent said they used fewer subscription services than during the pandemic and only 17 per cent were using more. Of those who have cut back, 48 per cent cited cost considerations and 30 per cent a return to normal routine after the pandemic.

Platforms such as Netflix, Disney+ and Spotify continue to be popular, however, with 50 per cent of Britons saying that they had used a streaming service in the past two months, compared with 48 per cent in the pandemic.

Mark Littlewood



Banning disposable vapes may just turn more teenagers on to smoking

We learnt last week that the government may ban disposable e-cigarettes from our shops. Such a policy move would raise a swathe of interconnected questions about uncertainties in science, the balance between the protection of children and the freedom of adults and how to properly calculate the social and health costs of any given activity.

Overall, we may be about to see if the government has a coherent approach to harm reduction and whether, when it comes to dangerous products such as tobacco, we are pursuing an approach where the best is the enemy of the good.

The case for a prohibition on single-use vaping products might have some obvious attractions at first glance. Anecdotally, people are noticing more and more youngsters puffing away on these nicotine products and assume that this presents a risk on the same sort of scale as children smoking cigarettes, a lifetime of addiction leading to illness and premature death.

The intentions of the producers of these devices are also treated with scepticism. Packaged in an array of bright colours and boasting flavours such as cherry cola and candy floss, the suspicion is that the objective is to appeal to the youth market rather than merely to ween adult smokers off combustible tobacco.

With virtually every policy suggestion these days requiring some sort of green angle, an additional argument is that the lithium batteries used in e-cigarettes pose environmental risks.

The combination of these factors is enough to make most people instinctively favour a swathe of prohibitions. As is so often the case, however, digging into the evidence suggests that a well-intentioned policy could have the exact opposite effects to those it is striving for.

Figures from 2021 suggest that 22 per cent of secondary school pupils have tried an e-cigarette. This is no higher than it was in 2014 but regular use among this cohort seems to be accelerating. Indeed it has more than doubled from 4 per cent to 9 per cent over the same period. Sales are supposedly prohibited to under-18s, so this seems alarming.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to compare these statistics to a counterfactual. How many of these kids would be puffing away on traditional cigarettes, as was quite common in the 1980s when I was at school, if they were not vaping? Although one gets into very small sample sizes, it seems that only 1 per cent of regular secondary-school e-cigarette users have never smoked an old-style cigarette, equating to 0.09 per cent of that population.

For idealists, any numbers above zero here will be considered too high but if Public Health England is right that next-generation nicotine products may be 95 per cent less dangerous than traditional tobacco, this is exactly where we might find that striving for the perfect outcome distracts us from the optimal outcome. If it becomes relatively harder for teenagers to get their hands on a vaping device compared with a cigarette, health outcomes will probably worsen. As it is we have now nearly eliminated cigarette consumption among the very young: only 1 per cent of 11 to 15-year-olds smoke cigarettes regularly.

Unusually for the UK, we have taken a relatively liberal approach to new nicotine products. In recent years we have tended to be more restrictive than most western nations when it comes to potentially dangerous products including alcohol, fast food and sugar.

Legend has it that it was only a chance meeting between David Cameron, as prime minister, and an advocate for the potential health benefits of e-cigarettes that led to this strategy and with the market in new nicotine products now well developed in Britain, restrictions could meet voter resistance.



The UK has, so far, taken a fairly liberal approach to vapes

The consequence might well be that although we have more young vapers than we otherwise would, heart disease and cancer rates in the future could be much lower.

Sweden provides an intriguing template for such an approach. Snus, an oral tobacco that is placed behind the upper lip, is a popular product there (although banned in the rest of the EU). It does not come without some risks, but they appear minimal compared with cigarettes and Sweden benefits from very low smoking rates.

In many areas of policy we instinctively embrace harm reduction. We accept that there are actions that come with some sort of downsides but emphatically are worth taking. The coronavirus vaccination programme is a standout example. Having the jab did not come with no possible drawbacks but it seemed far preferable (at least to most people) to the prospect of contracting Covid.

Public policy decisions always come with a wide range of competing demands. One would hope that harm reduction is one of them but this can often rub up against other considerations. If your overriding aim were simply to increase funds into the Treasury then people switching away from unhealthy and highly taxed products such as tobacco and alcohol generates a hole in revenues. Despite popular belief, so-called "sin taxes" typically more than cover the costs associated with consumption.

Similarly, we tend to accept that health is not the absolute ace of trumps in all circumstances. The pursuit of pleasure is part of living a good life and frequently comes with some sort of downside.

When it comes to health policy, particularly affecting children, it is often (and understandably) tempting to see a risk and reach for the most draconian solution. Bans, restrictions and prohibitions therefore tend to proliferate. A less headline-grabbing approach would probably be more effective — better information being made available, stronger enforcement at point of sale — but because we too often allow the best to be the enemy of the good, we frequently end up with approaches that are neither liberal nor healthy.

Mark Littlewood is director-general of the Institute of Economic Affairs. Twitter: @MarkJLittlewood

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Johan Lundgren

Britain must ensure it leads the way in aviation's hydrogen revolution

Decarbonisation is one of the biggest challenges ever faced by aviation, and if we are to meaningfully reduce carbon emissions we must embrace new, clean technologies. Although the latest generation of aircraft, such as the Airbus A320neo, burn significantly less fuel than their predecessors and are a step towards achieving net-zero flight, realising this ambition requires a revolution.

Like all revolutions, it will need collective action for a common goal, which is why easyJet has formed the Hydrogen in Aviation (HIA) alliance alongside Rolls-Royce, Airbus, Orsted, GKN Aerospace and Bristol airport. Together, we want to work with the UK government to leverage Britain's 230,000-person-strong aviation sector, with unparalleled expertise in engines, fuel systems and wings, to ensure that the UK captures its opportunity to become a global leader in hydrogen-powered flight.

'Hydrogen is the biggest step-change for aviation since the jet engine, and the UK has a chance to play a defining role'

Rolls-Royce has already proved hydrogen's ability to power a jet engine and flight tests conducted by ZeroAvia and Universal Hydrogen have further underlined hydrogen's potential to transform our industry. Hydrogen could provide a revolutionary solution for short-haul flight that will complement long-haul aircraft powered by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). Like so many other clean technologies, there does not need to be a drawn-out debate about hydrogen versus SAF, which would only slow progress: we must embrace a two-fold solution.

Air travel is fundamental to global mobility, connecting families and friends and enabling people to see and experience new and exciting places. Following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, demand for air travel has rebounded strongly and is expected to increase by nearly three times by 2040. Although this increased demand will require more aircraft, it does not have to mean a corresponding increase in emissions.

With an essential focus on safety, change in aviation takes years or even decades. On average, it takes aircraft five to nine years to be certified and even longer to get from clean sheet to in service. The first design of Airbus's A350 was drawn up in 2004 but the aircraft's first flight wasn't until January 2015. With Airbus aiming to have a hydrogen-powered commercial aircraft ready as early as 2035, we have no time to waste.

Hydrogen is the biggest step-change for aviation since the jet engine and the UK has a huge opportunity to play a defining role in the next era of flight. Our ability to enter this new era goes beyond designing and building aircraft. We must also ensure that relevant national infrastructure is in place to produce hydrogen at scale and ground services to transport and store it at airports. The investment required to support aviation's move to hydrogen could create 60,000 high-value jobs in UK aviation's regional heartlands, and beyond, and deliver an £18 billion annual boost to the economy by 2050.

This opportunity cannot, however, be realised by the aviation industry alone. This is why we have been clear with our three demands of the UK government to support our plan of action and deliver pioneering change. First, we ask for its support in the delivery of infrastructure needed for the UK to be a global leader. Second, we request that the aviation regulatory regime is hydrogen ready. Finally, we appeal for the transformation of funding for hydrogen aviation research and development support and the creation of a ten-year programme.

HIA members are embracing a new technology for decarbonising aviation and we want to work with the government to help to realise the UK's potential in this area. There is no time to waste if we are to achieve hydrogen-powered flight by the mid-2030s and no reason that the UK should not lead aviation's hydrogen revolution. It is time for the UK to seize the initiative to define the future of aviation.

Johan Lundgren is chairman of the Hydrogen in Aviation Alliance and chief executive of easyJet

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Business rates are like paying rent twice, says Frasers chief

Michael Murray calls for urgent reform of a tax system built for the pre-internet world, **Dominic Walsh** writes

The chief executive of Frasers Group described the business rates regime as a disaster and urged the government to step in with a transformation as quickly as possible.

Michael Murray, 33, who stepped into the role last May, said that most of the rent bills were now equal to the rates the group pays for the buildings, adding: "It makes it almost unviable. You're almost paying rent twice."

Murray, who is the son-in-law of Mike Ashley, the founder of the company, told the *Gentleman's Journal* podcast: "Historically, when there was no online, rents were a lot higher and rates were benchmarked at broadly 50 per cent of the rent you were paying. Now rents have come down so much because online is eating away at the retail sales."

Murray said the current rates regime was "built for retail with no online", adding: "It needs reforming but the government hasn't reformed at anything like the pace it needs to. It's so outdated. It needs to be reformed to encourage retail investment. I know they have to balance the books as well, they could do it a lot faster."

Frasers was founded by Ashley, 58, in 1982 as Sports Direct but changed its name to reflect its ownership of a host of some of Britain's best known retail brands, including House of Fraser, Flannels, Jack Wills and Gieves & Hawkes. It also owns stakes in the likes of AO World, Boohoo, Asos and Hugo Boss.

The company has been accused of adopting a scattergun strategy on acquisitions but Murray said it was simply keen to work with the world's best brands. "If you say you want a meeting with somebody, nine times out of ten nothing usually comes from it. But if you've got skin in the game with a piece of the action things happen much quicker."

Murray showed entrepreneurial flair aged 15 when he ran GCSE parties. By the time he left school he had three nightclubs and his decision to start buying and doing up houses while at university left him with no student loan to repay.

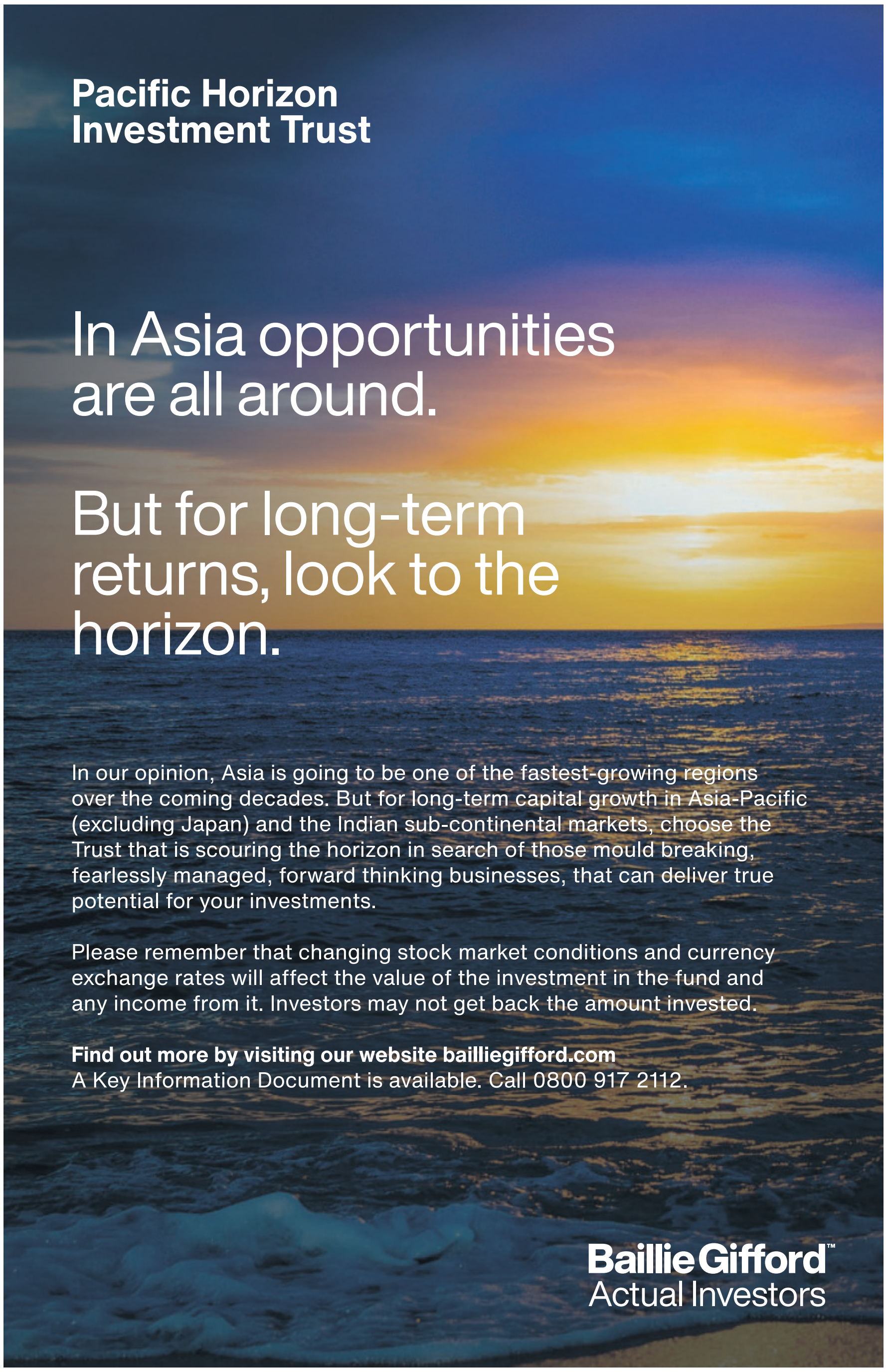
He initially became involved in his father-in-law's business affairs through the property side of Sports Direct. Having studied property at the University of Reading he was asked to run Fraser Group's property operations and became a consultant to the company.

"I had a chat with Mike," he said. "I said to Mike that if we wanted to be here for another 35 years and for it to be a super-successful business we needed to change things. It was a 'do or die' situation."

The upshot was that the company would buy the bigger, better property it wanted and fund the buildings with its own capital.


Michael Murray, who is behind the group's

One of Murray's favourite purchases was the acquisition at the end of last year of the 250-year-old Savile Row tailor Gieves & Hawkes. Although it is one of Savile Row's oldest and most vener-



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All Saints co-founders' fashion and food pop-up

Richard Tyler

Stuart Trevor and John Vincent, the co-founders of the fashion retailer All Saints and the fast-food chain Leon, respectively, have teamed up to create a sustainable clothing and food venture that they hope will be bigger than their previous companies.

The pair opened a pop-up shop in central London last Friday and, after trading for a period online, will begin selling their upcycled fashion and plant-based food range in former department stores across the capital.

"Both of us want to build something bigger than Leon or All Saints," Vincent, 51, said. "We think there's a massive space for a business that does sustainability properly."

The venture, known as Stuart Trevor, will start by selling upcycled vintage clothing and new items designed by Trevor and other artists using "deadstock" fabrics that are surplus to requirements and usually destroyed. It will also sell T-shirts, hoodies and underwear made with virgin organic cotton. "There are 100 billion items of clothing made every year. We think we never need make another pair of jeans again," Trevor, 56, said. The food offering will follow in the new year, Vincent said.

Fashion businesses have come under increased scrutiny over sustainability. The UK's competition watchdog is scrutinising claims by retailers such as Asos, Boohoo and George at Asda about the sustainability of their clothing.

Vincent said the plan was to self-finance the business, experimenting in the first 12 months and then expanding into physical retail.

Vincent sold Leon in 2021 to EG Group, run by the Asda-owners Mohsin and Zuber Issa, in a deal valuing the 70-strong chain at £100 million. He received £13 million for his 15 per cent stake. Trevor created All Saints in 1994 and sold it in 2005 when it was valued at £17 million.

They joined forces after a reporter from The Times suggested that they meet. "It was a fantastic idea on the part of the journalist. We have been dating since and decided to bring our concepts together in one company," Vincent said.

JAMES SPEAKMAN FOR THE TIMES





luxury Flannels shops, says rates used to be benchmarked at about 50 per cent of rent but now they were almost equal

able tailoring companies, its future was thrown into doubt by the collapse into liquidation of its Hong Kong-based owner Trinity Group last January.

"I love the brand, I love the clothes, but it's been abused for too long," Murray said. "Amazing building and amazing brand. Gieves could become the jewel in our crown and we'll be investing in it and relaunching it first half of next year. We're restarting made-to-measure and bespoke."

Frasers has about 1,630 shops with a turnover of £5.6 billion and adjusted pre-tax profit of £478.1 million. Murray adopts an "elevation strategy" that is replacing older shops, often resulting in the closure of two or three of them, to be replaced by one larger new-generation shop. He has also targeted aspirational customers via Flannels shops.

Opt-out scheme spurs staff to join workplace savings

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

Employers are achieving huge increases in the take-up of workplace savings schemes using small tweaks to the way the options are presented to their employees, according to a new report.

The take-up rate for schemes offered by the Co-operative Group and Bupa Care Services increased fourfold from 16 per cent to 71 per cent when the employees were required to opt out rather than given the choice of opting in. The switch pushed participation in a similar staff savings scheme at the rubbish collection company Suez from 1 per cent of its employees to 47 per cent.

All three companies have been guinea pigs in an experiment in nudge economics, designed to help people to accumulate rainy-day savings and avoid a spiral into unmanageable debts. The findings provided evidence that it could be a way for business and the government to improve the financial resilience of millions of relatively low-paid workers, according to Nest Insight, the think tank conducting the research.

The opt-out approach, which means that staff have to do nothing to have a portion of their monthly pay deducted and put in a bank account in their name, dramatically boosted participation, Nest said. "The nudge is both popular and powerful."

It worked even in the middle of a cost of living squeeze: the Co-op and Bupa trials were introduced in autumn last year. Nest said the results were extraordinary. In all cases the default deduction was £40 a month.

Co-op and Bupa ran their schemes through Wagestream, an app that enables users to see their pay arrangements in real time and get paid some of their earnings before pay day.

Participation dramatically improved when the opt-out system was used but the level of saving was similar. Average balances were £104 for employees who were automatically enrolled and £106 for employees required to opt in. Policymakers are looking at whether the same inertia that helps people to save for their pension under the auto-enrolment regime could be harnessed for short-term precautionary savings.

A survey of participating employees found that they liked the opt-out approach: 96 per cent of Suez workers in the trial said they wanted the company to continue with it or did not mind either way; 93 per cent of Wagestream users were happy or neutral.

"We're seeing that the vast majority of employees feel positively about the opt-out workplace saving experience, whether or not they themselves choose to save," the Nest researchers found.

For the phenomenon to go mainstream employers would probably want

71%

Take-up for the scheme under opt-out, compared with 16% for opting in
Source: Nest Insight

more regulatory clarity. There are strict employment rules on making deductions from employees' pay packets. Jo Phillips, Nest Insight's director of research and innovation, said: "It's clear from our research that opt-out payroll savings approaches have enormous potential to boost the financial resilience, mental health and productivity of millions of people. We have a huge opportunity here. Over the coming months, we'll be bringing together industry and policymakers to explore how opt-out payroll savings approaches could be scaled."

Nick Speight, director of culture and colleague experience at the 57,000-employee Co-op, said, "Opt-out seems to be the way to go. It addresses one of our concerns that our food and logistics colleagues don't have that rainy day fund to give them financial resilience."

Tories 'making housing crisis worse'

Tom Howard

Churchill Retirement Living, builder of flats for over-60s, has taken aim at the government for worsening the housing crisis after its profits fell by a third last year.

The developer has been swept up in the housing market downturn that began last autumn after the "disastrous mini-budget". Spencer McCarthy, the chairman of Churchill, said the government was adding to the headwinds facing the sector.

Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget sent the bond markets into chaos and caused a jump in mortgage rates that sapped the confidence of would-be home movers. Mortgage costs have remained high ever since.

Churchill sold 431 flats in the year to the end of June, a fifth fewer than in its previous financial year. The market slowdown, it said, had had a "detrimental effect" on the housing chains at the end of which its customers usually sit.

Revenue declined by 13 per cent to £174.3 million from £200.1 million last year, insulated somewhat by Churchill increasing its prices by 5.6 per cent to an average of £369,000. The company was not, however, able to put up its prices enough to offset build cost inflation, which dented its margins. Reflecting that, operating profits declined by a third to £25.8 million, down from £38.8 million last time around.

Churchill was founded in 1994 by Spencer and Clinton McCarthy, the sons of John McCarthy, who had set up McCarthy & Stone, another builder of senior living communities. Both brothers are heavily involved in the business: Spencer is chairman and chief executive and Clinton is managing director.



The McCarthy family own the company. They paid themselves a dividend of £22.9 million last year, but given the "very challenging market backdrop" and in an attempt to conserve cash they have scrapped the dividend for this year.

The housebuilding industry has been criticised for not building enough homes but Spencer McCarthy said that builders had been hindered by the government's "persistently negative stance" towards the sector.

"The impact of new national policies on our planning applications and the overall housing market cannot be overestimated," he said. "The government needs to recognise that its policies are exacerbating the housing crisis and take immediate action to address this situation."

He estimates that new energy efficiency rules introduced in June, known as Part L building regulations, will add £6,000 to the cost of building each of its apartments. There were also "unprecedented challenges in the planning system", he said.

Over the past year Churchill has had twelve of its planning applications go to appeals, ten of which it overturned. In total, last year it secured planning consents for 771 flats across 16 sites.

Skype workers got the call to create 225 companies

Katie Prescott

Former Skype staff have started 225 companies raising a total of $11.3 billion, including Peloton, Bolt and Wise, in the 20 years since it was founded.

Those who started these companies in 18 countries were all involved in the first ten years of Skype and the data shows the significance of the internet phone service, one of Europe's first big technology companies.

Niklas Zennstrom, co-founder of Skype and Atomico, the London-based venture capital firm that published the figures, said: "The fact that we could become a training ground for people who could go out and start companies and do it even better, I'm very pleased with how that part of it worked out."

Skype was founded in 2003 by Zennstrom, from Sweden, and Janus Friis, from Denmark, to allow people to make calls over the internet, circumventing expensive telecoms companies.

It was bought in 2005 for $2.6 billion by eBay, which wrote down its value by $1.4 billion in 2007 after the company did not perform as expected. It changed hands again in 2011, when Microsoft paid $8.5 billion for the business, integrating it into Xbox and Windows.

Reflecting on the period since he started Skype, Zennstrom said Europe was now on a par with the US in creating start-ups. "When I look back 20 years ago, there was not much of a tech ecosystem," he said. "Something existed and then was wiped out by the dot-com crash.

"This is why I started Atomico. Because I saw potential in Europe to build great companies and I thought the best way I could contribute to that was to build a venture capital firm."

The current downturn was proving a "cold shower that is cleansing for the whole market", he said. "There will be founders who don't have the kind of grit that is required."

Skype said that a further 685 companies came out of the 225 started by its original employees and this second generation of businesses had raised a total of $10.6 billion. The 910 businesses include 15 unicorns.

SPONSORED CONTENT

Catching a break

Finding it frustrating to plan a holiday, one entrepreneur set up a business to do just that. Now she's flying high



Nena Chaletzos
Founder of Luxtripper

In 2013 Nena Chaletzos started planning a dream holiday to Bali and Singapore with her future husband, Richard. But as her search for flights, hotels and experiences to suit them both ran into weeks, her enthusiasm wilted.

"The more I spoke to other people, the more I realised this frustration was commonplace," says Chaletzos. "I was really surprised no one had solved the problem of quickly producing personalised itineraries that satisfy everything you want as a traveller."

She decided to change that. Leaving her successful corporate career in HR and operations, Chaletzos raised capital through crowdfunding and angel investment before launching Luxtripper in 2015. The luxury tour operator uses technology to create bespoke, immersive packages.

Revenues hit £29.4 million in its latest accounts, taking Luxtripper to 19th in this year's Sunday Times 100 list of the fastest-growing private companies, sponsored by Barclays Private Bank.

While the company is avowedly digital based, Chaletzos, who used to help her dad run a high street travel agency, wanted it to retain a human touch. "Our developers worked with the team who interacted with customers, understanding the psychology behind how people like to build a trip," she says. Half of Luxtripper's customers still speak to a team member when booking.

The company had enjoyed five years of growth when the pandemic hit. But Chaletzos wasn't fazed – the business responded by developing its technology and product portfolio, and engaging with customers more on social media.

Once travel restrictions were lifted, sales increased fivefold on pre-Covid levels, and there are now nearly 100,000 unique itineraries in Luxtripper's system.

Another angel round in 2021 took total funding to £3.1 million. The company invested in customer loyalty (with the result that repeat bookings rose 500 per cent between 2020 and 2022), while expanding the portfolio of destinations and experiences (up by over a third last year compared to 2021).

While an exit is not yet on her mind, Chaletzos does know the direction she wants to go in when the time comes, and it doesn't involve sitting on a beach.

After seeing so many beautiful yet fragile places around the world, she explains, "I would love to be able to give back and support those who have new ways of protecting the planet."

She is also likely to stay involved in the tech sector: "I'm fascinated by the way that technology can solve complex problems, and with so much on the horizon with data and AI, there will be a whole new era of problems to solve."

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Business Times Enterprise Network

Adrenaline ride: GoPro turns kicks into clicks

THE TIMES ENTERPRISE NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

The must-have piece of kit for thrillseekers has influencers in its sights. Its founder tells **Hannah Prevett** about his plans



The Austrian base jumper Felix Baumgartner grabbed the world's attention in 2012 when he rocketed 24 miles up to the edge of space before opening the door of his capsule and stepping off.

On the way down he reached 843mph, becoming the first human to break the sound barrier without a vehicle, and the whole adventure was captured on GoPro cameras.

GoPros have recorded the adrenaline-fuelled stunts of plenty of others, too, including the mountain biker Kelly McGarry backflipping over a 72ft canyon at the Red Bull Rampage in Idaho in 2013. Then there is the base jumper Jeb Corliss's Grinding the Crack YouTube video, which has racked up more than 34 million views and shows him jumping off a cliff in Switzerland wearing a wingsuit and soaring through a picturesque valley at 120mph.

But while GoPro footage has made stars of its protagonists, the person who came up with the idea for the wearable cameras would prefer not to be in the limelight. "I would much rather be in the background and focused on the business than being a celebrity," Nick Woodman, 48, GoPro's founder and chief executive, said.

Nonetheless, a big product release for the firm's latest camera, the Hero 12 Black, means that he has been thrust into the spotlight and is on the European leg of a world marketing tour. It is the first big product release since before Covid and London is his final destination before he heads home to Montana, the US state where the Rocky Mountains and Yellowstone National Park are partly located.

Although it is the new camera that has brought Woodman to Europe, and the company is best known for its hardware, GoPro is pushing into the higher-margin software market with a suite of video-editing software tools aimed at the growing number of social media influencers who use its products and services. The release of a desktop version of its app later this year will cement GoPro's position "as a legitimate player in the software, video editing space", Woodman said, adding that the programme sits "in the middle between the free tools that would come with your operating system and the more expensive, more complicated tools from a company like Adobe".

He hopes that GoPro's software ambitions will help to restore the company's fortunes. When it listed on the Nasdaq in June 2014, shares were priced at $24, which valued the company at about $3 billion. Four months later its shares hit an all-time high of $98.47. Today they languish at about $3.50, valuing the company at just north of $540 million. The slump can partly be explained by increased competition from drones and smartphone cameras and more recently the impact of the pandemic and cost of living crisis.

Does shareholders losing money keep Woodman awake at night? "One thousand per cent. GoPro's valuation and our stock price is top of mind. Creating value is ultimately what we're in business for, starting with creating value for our customers … but we need to translate that into value creation for our shareholders."

Woodman admits it has been "quite a learning curve" since he founded the company in 2002. He came up with the idea after strapping a camera to his wrist to capture his surfing adventures on a trip to Australia and Indonesia. "I figured this was the trip of a lifetime … and I wished that I had a camera I could surf with and document my experience. Of course, no such camera existed."

The lightbulb went off and the idea for GoPro was born. He used his $30,000 savings, made from selling beaded belts he had bought in Indonesia, and $35,000 his mother lent him. His father, Dean Woodman, an investment banker, later lent him "a couple of hundred thousand dollars to build inventory … but as soon as I could pay him back I paid him back".

Woodman is proud of not having raised any external investment until GoPro listed on Nasdaq in 2014. "We were instantly profitable once we started selling products. We were never a traditional Silicon Valley tech company."

One setback was its expensive foray into drone technology. The GoPro Karma was released in autumn 2016 and discontinued in 2018 after disappointing sales. Woodman is philosophical about the failed venture, saying he pulled the plug because the "profitability outlook was not very encouraging" but that he is glad that he gave it a shot.

"It's important that you try new things [and] don't be afraid to fail. Not everything is going to work out the way that you expect it to. But as a business, as innovators, we have to be willing to try new things and that was what we did in the case of drones," he said, before pointing out that "some of the world's best drone footage is still captured with a GoPro", thanks to racer drones fitted with his cameras.



Nick Woodman saw the huge potential for a hands-free portable camera and launched the company two decades ago



"So even though we're not officially in the drone business, GoPros are still flying."

The onset of the pandemic presented a new challenge. "[At] GoPro we build a product that's meant to be used when people are out and about having fun and pursuing an active lifestyle and all of a sudden people can't even leave their house or apartment any more? That really threatened our business."

The company's response was to cut more than 200 jobs, slash marketing budgets and reduce retailer listings by a third. "We hunkered down a bit to weather the storm," he said.

Coming out of Covid proved to be more complicated and GoPro is two quarters into what Woodman described as a "strategy shift".

This includes investing heavily again in marketing and refocusing on physical retail rather than predominantly selling direct to consumers online. "As the world has returned to pre-pandemic norms … we realised that the very strategy that made us so profitable and successful during the pandemic is really constraining our growth and profitability."

GoPro's most recent financial results tell the story. Sales for 2022 stood at $1.09 billion, down 6 per cent from 2021, with profits of $95 million against $168 million in the previous year. One brighter spot, however, was the growth of the software arm of the business, with revenues up 52 per cent to $82 million, and Woodman expects this to continue to grow strongly in 2023 and beyond as content creators look for more sophisticated video-editing products.

Selling both software and hardware requires technical skills that can be hard to come by, but Woodman said that the company's remote working policy allowed him to tap into the talent that he needed. GoPro employs 900 people globally. They include technical teams in Paris, Bucharest and San Francisco, who need to be in the office, but most other roles are remote.

"It gives us a significant advantage when hiring against much bigger companies for critical people," Woodman said, adding that its flexible working policies also helped it to recruit senior leaders. "Finding those people is one thing, but then getting them to relocate for you is an entirely different challenge. So when you take that out of the equation, it makes landing those key hires all the easier.

"While we can't always compete on the compensation front we can definitely compete on the culture front. It's hugely empowering to say to somebody they can live wherever they want to live."

Explosives rules tighten chemical sales

Richard Tyler

Businesses selling the chemicals used in camping stoves, fertilisers, rat poison and a fuel for model steam engines will have to comply with new regulations from October 1, introduced in response to the Manchester Arena terrorist attack.

The Home Office has expanded the list of regulated poisons and chemicals that could be used to make explosives to include ten more compounds such as hexamine, a solid fuel, ammonium nitrate, used in fertilisers, and calcium phosphide, in pest control products.

The British Independent Retailers Association (Bira), which represents 6,000 retailers, said the new regulations would have a "significant impact" on many businesses.

Consumers wanting to purchase goods made using these chemicals will have to show an explosives precursors and poisons licence, which costs £39.50 for three years.

Professional and business users, including farmers, do not need a licence but those supplying the goods will have to keep records of each purchaser for 18 months. Businesses must decline to sell the chemicals where they are not convinced the buyer's stated plan for them is consistent with their occupation — and report a suspicious transaction.

Thomas Tugendhat, a Home Office minister, has highlighted how substances such as ammonium nitrate "have a history of being used in improvised explosive devices". He said the new regulations addressed concerns that individuals were presenting themselves as businesses to obtain the chemicals without needing to apply for a licence.

An assessment of the changes found that "pharmacies, home improvement stores, garden centres, stores selling pool and spa supplies and pest control supply companies" were all likely to be affected. Jeff Moody, Bira's commercial director, said: "These tighter regulations are important for public safety but many shops and businesses need to be aware of these changes coming in."



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Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,591.12	Aston Martin Lag	325¾	-9⅛	...	-1.9

Banking & finance

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
3,138.61	**Abrdn**‡	163½	+7	...	3.5
8.17	Acuity RM♦	6¾	-¼	...	...
7,396.78	**Admiral**‡	2436	+78	...	12.4
6.67	ADVFN♦	14½	-1½	...	2.5
1,231.32	AJ Bell	298¾	+7¾	...	28.0
55,050.98	Aon Corpn	27136½	+236¾	...	66.2
155.67	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	955	+5	...	21.1
2.73	Argo Group♦	7	-½	...	3.2
1,372.03	Ashmore	192½	+4	...	6.5
40,116.25	Aus New Z	1334¾	+43	...	10.4
10,972.67	**Aviva**‡	400⅝	+31½	...	52.7
49,523.49	Banco Santander	306	+12½	...	7.3
1,701.14	Bank of Georgia	3705	+310	...	11.4
24,762.18	**Barclays**‡	161⅜	+13⅛	...	3.9
5.74	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	2.3
135.93	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	365	+8	...	10.0
7.41	Braveheart Inv♦	11⅝	-¾	...	0.3
1,564.20	Brewin Dolphin	515	+1	...	28.1
1,546.01	Bridgepoint‡	192½	+1½	...	12.0
16.44	Cenkos Secs♦	29	+2	...	5.9
414.13	Chesnara	275	+7	...	15.2
11.94	City of Lon Gp♦	10	-14	...	-0.6
201.70	City Lon Inv Gp	398	+12	...	9.3
1,264.65	Close Bros	840½	+20	...	6.2
293.81	CMC Markets	105	+2⅜	...	3.2
10,640.52	Commerzbk	849⅝	+49⅝	...	43.5
17,994.82	Deutsche Bk	881⅞	+51⅜	...	10.3
2,405.11	Direct Line Ins	183⅜	+1⅞	...	7.6
358.52	EFG-Hermes Hldg	49⅛	...	...	3.1
48.55	EPE Special Opps♦	162½	+5	...	9.1
381.25	FBD‡	1071¼	-43	...	4.7
7.68	Fiske♦	65	...	...	11.5
72.33	Frenkel Topping♦	56½	-1	...	32.8
453.18	Georgia Capital	1034	+44	...	2.8
408.57	Gresham House♦	1067½	+2½	...	42.8
181.67	H&T Group♦‡	413	+3	...	13.2
57.36	Hansard Global	41⅝	+⅝	...	14.3
3,684.51	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	776¾	+37⅜	...	13.8
94.00	Helios Under♦	122½	-5	...	...
123,439.56	**HSBC**‡	629¼	+44⅞	...	13.7
2,736.09	IG Group	684½	+26½	...	6.9
661.66	Impax♦	499	-25	...	16.4
3,972.68	Intermed Capital	1367	+35	...	7.8
274.57	IPF‡	122½	+2½	...	6.8
2,454.04	International Public P'ship‡	128⅜	-½	...	16.5
2,963.05	Investec	459⅛	-5⅛	...	11.5
15.99	Investment Co	335	...	...	12.0
612.82	IP Group	59	+1¼	...	2.2
52.11	Jarvis Securities♦	116½	+11½	...	8.3
544.46	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	99⅞	+6⅜	...	3.7
782.14	Just Group‡	75¼	+¼	...	...
1,493.34	Lancashire Holdings‡	612	+37	...	...
13,708.53	**Legal & Gen**‡	229¼	+12⅝	...	7.0
1,438.66	Liberty Group	502⅝	-50034⅜	...	...
398.38	Liontrust	613½	-5	...	7.6
60.35	Livermore Invs♦	36½	...	...	2.3
27,449.60	**Lloyds Banking Group**	43⅛	+1¾	...	6.0
17.76	LMS Capital	22	+2⅜	...	9.5
45,940.18	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8342	+78	...	85.3
4,802.74	**M&G**	203⅜	+9¾	...	63.5
2,577.30	Man‡	214¾	+8⅞	...	8.6
25.41	Manx Fin♦	22	...	...	11.1
1.91	Marechale Cap♦	1¾	...	...	0.8
78,575.76	Marsh McLn	15907½	+196	...	33.1
320.45	Mattioli Woods♦	620	+15	...	...
15.35	Metal Tiger♦	9	+1	...	3.5
129.51	Metro Bank	75	-27	...	-0.5
48,328.30	Nat Aust Bk	1541½	+56½	...	15.2
21,053.90	**NatWest**‡	236½	+12½	...	9.3
368.51	Numis♦	335	+½	...	6.8
1,285.10	Onesavings Bank‡	323½	-1⅛	...	4.3
403.30	PayPoint‡	555	-9	...	17.4
3.17	PCF Group♦	⅞	+¼	...	-0.4
5,387.25	**Phoenix**	538	+25¾	...	-6.2
25,924.28	**Prudential**‡	941½	+45	...	15.2
14.76	Quantum Blockchain♦	1¼	...	...	-7.0
1,265.10	Quilter‡	90	+2⅛	...	64.3
188.41	Randall & Quilter♦	50⅜	-3	...	75.1
1,101.20	Rathbone Grp	1736	+24	...	13.4
4.85	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	1.8
46.50	Rockwood Strategic	1730	-105	...	2.5
261.24	S & U	2150	-70	...	10.1
3.07	Sancus Lending Grp♦	½	...	...	-0.2
198.33	Schroder REIT	40½	-⅜	...	4.3
6,683.77	**Schroders**‡	414½	+11¼	...	1.9
4,739.81	**St James Place**‡	864	+14¾	...	16.4
20,469.36	**Stand Chart**‡	743⅛	+37½	...	16.6
3.21	Starvest♦	5½	-1	...	-0.9
35.64	STM Group♦‡	60	...	...	23.1
23,818.83	Sun Life Can	4058⅛	+148½	...	10.3
32.22	Tavistock Inv♦	5¾	...	...	0.9
1,582.52	TBC Bank Group‡	2870	+125	...	8.3
17.54	Tern♦	4½	...	...	3.3
85.37	Thames Ventures VCT‡	48	...	...	6.4
25.44	Time Finance♦	27½	+2	...	16.7
314.96	Vanquis‡	122¾	+5¾	...	2.3
25.38	Volvere♦	1085	-40	...	...
16.52	WH Ireland♦	7	...	...	3.9
9.79	Walker Crips Grp	23	...	...	65.7
63,194.05	Wells Fargo	3466⅜	+158⅞	...	9.4
39,678.26	Westpac	1130⅝	+33¾	...	15.3
9.35	Worsley Investors Ltd	27⅝	-⅛	...	86.5
56,035.42	Zurich Fincl	38287⅛	+1322	...	14.9

Investment companies

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Forecast Yld%	Forecast P/E
20,283.84	**3I Group**	2084	+90	...	12.2
2,863.90	3i Infrastructure	310½	+6½	...	-7.3
1,039.22	Aberforth Smlr	1230	+14	...	-11.6
251.26	abrdnDivInc&Grwth	83⅜	+⅜	...	-28.0
3,025.43	Alliance	1064	+16	...	-5.2
410.96	Asia Dragon Tr	362	+4	...	-15.9
4.21	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-8.6
933.41	AVI Global Trust	201½	+3½	...	-10.4
133.95	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	216	+2	...	-10.8
309.08	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	86¼	+1¼	...	-13.4
679.81	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	731	+5	...	-8.1
415.85	Baillie Gifford SN	133	-1	...	-11.5
243.01	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	161¾	+4¾	...	-13.9
482.67	Bal Comm Prop	68¾	-2⅛	...	-38.1
1,237.34	Bankers Inv Trst	99	+2	...	-12.1
1,362.25	BH Macro	364½	+13½	...	-7.5
288.33	Biotech Growth	795	...	...	-6.2
160.54	BlckRck Com Inc	120	+3	...	-10.6
268.84	BlckRck Fro Inv	142	-1	...	-9.4
535.57	BlckRck Grt Euro	531	+5	...	-4.0
37.58	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	181	-1	...	-13.4
119.86	BlckRck Latin Am	407	+22	...	-16.3
615.45	BlckRck Smlr	1268	+4	...	-12.6
146.02	BlckRck Sustain Amer	182	+1	...	-10.0
560.37	BlckRck Throgmorton	569	+12	...	-7.4
1,166.22	BlckRck Wld Min	610	+30	...	-0.3
140.44	Brown Adv US sm	1175	+7	...	-16.1
456.81	Brunner	1070	+5	...	-14.4
1,913.23	Caledonia Inv	3500	-5	...	-29.4
2,035.79	City of Lon IT	405	+13	...	1.6
54.10	Crystal Amber Fd♦	65	+2	...	-33.4
362.77	CT Priv Eq Ord	498	+3	...	-26.3
3.58	CT Property	73½	+73½	...	-14.5
311.52	CT UK Cap&Inc	298	+14	...	-5.0
24.87	CT UK HIT B	81	+2	...	-7.4
68.74	CT UK HIT	82½	+2½	...	-6.2
102.24	CT UK HIT UNIT	319	+8	...	-8.8
30.69	Dunedin Entp	557½	-2½	...	-10.3
1,090.83	Edinburgh IT	676	+23	...	-8.9
578.48	Edin Wwide	149	-2	...	-15.1
90.59	EP Global Opp	310	+19	...	-16.8
310.02	European Assets	86	-⅞	...	-7.9
788.13	European Opp Trust	814	+15	...	-9.7
4,662.06	**F&C Invest Tr**	907	+37	...	-8.9
372.08	Fidlty Asian Val	518	+2	...	-6.5
1,009.84	Fidelity China Sp	211	+1	...	-9.7
550.24	FdltyEmrgMkt	604	+13	...	-13.3
1,430.56	Fidelity European Trust	350	+2	...	-3.2
217.45	Fidlty Jap Tru	169	+1	...	-12.2
897.75	Fidlty Spec Val	277	+10	...	-7.6
1,809.41	Fins Gwth & Inc	881	+11	...	-4.0
629.62	GCP Infrastructure	72	...	...	-33.6
23.30	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	27¼	+¼	...	-16.8
3,265.85	Greencoat UK Wind	140⅞	+1⅞	...	-14.1
73.60	Hansa Investment	184	+2	...	-41.6
144.80	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	181	-1	...	-42.6
1,835.01	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2340	+35	...	-39.0
342.56	Hend Euro Foc	161	...	...	-11.4
213.51	Hend High Inc	164½	+1½	...	-4.7
539.35	Hend Smlr	722	+11	...	-12.8
1,031.25	Herald	1772	+18	...	-13.1
1,895.00	HgCapital Trust	414	+25	...	-11.3
2,579.99	HICL Infra	127	-1	...	-20.8
0.23	Highbridge Tactical	425	...	...	61.1
804.72	ICG Ent Tr	1190	+62	...	-35.8
1,121.16	Impax Env Mkts	383½	-6½	...	-6.5
213.93	Invesco Asia Tr	320	...	...	-10.9
291.60	Invesco Bond Inc	164	+1	...	1.0
4.96	IPST Bal	117½	+½	...	-22.9
61.55	IPST Gbl Eq	244	...	...	-13.3
1.19	IPST Managed	94½	+½	...	-14.1
106.05	IPST UK Eq	155½	+6½	...	-15.1
143.09	IP UKSmallerCos	423	+7	...	-10.1
1,489.95	JPM American	815	+10	...	-0.4
321.99	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	352	+5	...	-9.3
205.51	JPM China	247	+1	...	-10.9
398.53	JPM Claverhs	674	+22	...	-5.4
3.42	JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa	648	+516	...	202.8
1,230.37	JPM Em Mkts	107⅛	+⅛	...	-6.8
610.22	JPM Euro disc	387½	+6½	...	-11.1
379.14	JPM GEMI	128	+1	...	-12.0
1,922.51	JPM GG&I	479	+6	...	1.6
644.34	JPM Indian	878	+20	...	-15.3
171.71	JPM Jap Sml Co	315	...	...	-13.0
737.79	JPM Japan	488½	+8½	...	-6.8
196.10	JPM Mid Cap	910	+32	...	-12.8
68.65	JPM Multi-asset G&I	93¼	+1¼	...	-3.8
206.84	JPM Smllr Co	265	+3	...	-14.2
131.67	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	213	+1	...	-14.4
1,080.94	Law Debenture	826	+19	...	2.4
310.71	Lowland	115	+4	...	-14.6
97.52	Majedie	184	+1	...	-26.0
239.55	M Currie Port	323	-2	...	-2.4
50.77	Marwyn Val In	91½	-½	...	-45.5
1,591.54	Mercantile IT	201½	+2½	...	-12.8
814.77	Merchants	554	+19	...	1.3
413.69	Mid Wynd	723	+10	...	-2.4
2,211.06	Monks Inv Tst	975	+11	...	-12.7
232.24	Montanaro Eur Sml	122½	-4⅜	...	-11.3
931.89	Murray Income Trust	847	+28	...	-8.1
1,542.91	Murray Int	247	+6	...	-4.6
51.00	Nb Global Floating	71½	-1½	...	-9.9
456.01	Pacific Assets	377	+10	...	-7.2
1,526.31	Pantheon Int	289½	+6½	...	-36.3
5,684.01	**Pershing Sq**	3028	+6	...	-35.3
1,761.35	Personal Assets	469	+4	...	0.5
2,776.81	Polar Cap Tech	2240	-20	...	-12.9
21.89	Prem Glb & Inf	120	-1	...	-12.1
2,687.24	Renewables Inf	108⅛	+1⅛	...	-17.4
2,946.65	RIT Cap Ptnr	1980	+66	...	-17.0
276.57	Riverstone	608	+3	...	-53.1
419.71	Schroder TotRt	413	+13	...	-5.2
778.71	Schrd Asia Pac	502	+10	...	-8.9
193.80	Schrod Inc Gwth	279	+11	...	-8.2
288.97	Schrod Jap Gwth	241	+4	...	-10.9
192.27	Schrod UKMid	556	+20	...	-13.7
127.97	Schroder UK PP Tr	14⅛	+1⅛	...	-43.9
909.41	Scot American	510	+10	...	1.5
9,853.81	**Scot Mtge**	700¾	+15¾	...	-17.9
209.00	Secs Tst Scot	222	+3	...	-1.4
1,402.45	Sequoia Eco	83⅛	+⅛	...	-9.9
711.22	Temple Bar	239½	+8½	...	-5.3
1,721.51	Tplton Emg Mkt	151⅛	+3⅛	...	-13.1
754.37	The Glbl Smaller	146	+2	...	-11.9
0.76	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	+⅛	...	66.6
913.97	TR Property	288	+7	...	-7.4
169.69	Troy Inc&Gth	71⅛	+1⅛	...	-1.6
110.67	Utilico Ord	132	+1	...	-36.0
443.88	Utilico Emerging Mkt	224	+3	...	-16.2
1,260.01	Vietnam Ent Inv	618	-5	...	-18.7
1,490.56	Witan	233	+10	...	-8.6
1,845.32	Ww Health	314	+3	...	-7.9



Construction & property

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
58.72	Alumasc♦	162½	...	...	8.2
17.63	Aseana Props	8¾	-1⅛	...	-4.4
1,348.62	Assura‡	45⅜	+⅞	...	9.1
4.96	Aukett Swanke♦	1¾	...	...	-2.6
1,851.84	Balfour Beatty	332⅜	+9½	...	15.7
4,486.02	**Barratt Devs**	460¼	+24	...	7.1
2,668.63	Bellway	2228	+106	...	6.7
4,470.31	**Berkeley**	4209	+237	...	10.9
1,863.98	Big Yellow Group	1010	-14	...	6.6
43.98	Billington Hldgs♦	340	-10	...	27.6
270.65	Boot (Henry)	202	-7	...	10.8
2,995.02	Br Land	323	+11⅞	...	44.2
18.85	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
123.10	Cap & Regnl‡	56	+1	...	-0.4
25.82	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	...	26.6
10.44	Carecapital♦#	1⅞	...	...	-0.2
70.95	Clarke T‡	134¼	-3¾	...	9.6
1,148.53	Countryside Partner	229¾	+11	...	16.7
0.51	Craven House♦	13¼	...	...	-0.2
31,484.89	**CRH**	4422	+53	...	18.3
2,123.42	Derwent London‡	1891	+50	...	8.4
42.97	Dolphin Capital♦	4¾	+⅛	...	-3.2
19.40	First Prop♦	17½	-1¾	...	...
3.74	Fletcher King♦	36½	...	...	...
113.74	Foxtons Group	37¾	+2¾	...	...
207.89	Galliford Try	201½	+5⅝	...	44.7
824.75	Genuit Group‡	331	+12½	...	20.0
236.87	Gleeson (MJ)	406	+31	...	6.3
2,185.95	Grafton	914	+26¾	...	10.6
1,801.92	Grainger	243	+9	...	15.0
1,067.77	Great Portland	420½	+4⅛	...	-5.2
1,226.67	Hammerson‡	24½	-¼	...	-2.6
339.92	Harworth Gp	105	+4	...	3.6
10.14	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	400	...	...	8.2
284.33	Helical PLC	230½	+8	...	5.5
44.00	Highcroft Invs	845	...	...	3.6
575.51	Ibstock‡	146½	+1½	...	19.0
973.77	James Halstead♦	225	+27	...	23.9
556.74	Keller	765	-5	...	8.8
11,306.01	Kingspan Group	6214⅛	-162⅛	...	24.4
4,415.38	**Land Sec**‡	592¾	+15⅜	...	...
238.00	Life Science Reit	68	+3	...	...
9.17	Lon & Assoc	10¾	...	...	-1.4
1,903.90	Londonmetric Property‡	174¾	+1½	...	3.7
30.61	Macau Prop Op	49½	-1	...	-6.4
685.04	Marshalls	270¾	+6¾	...	9.8
83.56	Michelmersh♦	89	-½	...	14.1
980.24	Morgan Sindall	2070	+90	...	10.1
415.24	Mountview	10650	+100	...	13.2
253.79	NewRiver REIT	81½	+⅜	...	-2.8
92.77	Palace Capital	247	-13	...	11.8
46.30	Panther Securities♦	265	-10	...	2.4
3,446.55	**Persimmon**	1079	+61	...	4.3
2.84	Pires Investments♦	1½	...	...	-3.3
2.06	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
1,301.75	Primary Health Properties	97⅜	+4⅝	...	9.9
49.21	Real Estate Invs♦	28½	-½	...	3.7
1,668.74	Redrow	504½	+35½	...	6.2
1,730.97	Safestore	794	-11½	...	4.5
1,341.36	Savills‡	929	+25½	...	9.3
7.75	Secure Property♦	6	...	...	15.8
9,052.95	**Segro**‡	739⅛	+12¾	...	2.1
436.59	SIG	36⅞	+1⅞	...	...
395.47	SigmaRoc♦	57	+⅛	...	...
1,041.11	Sirius Real Estate	88⅜	-⅝	...	6.8
66.26	Smart (J)	166	...	...	4.5
55.85	Steppe Cement♦	25½	-1½	...	5.8
4,196.56	**Taylor Wimpey**	118¾	+5⅝	...	7.8
58.87	Town Centre	121½	-1½	...	4.8
1,767.65	Travis Perkins	831¾	+18⅜	...	8.1
2,689.98	Tritax Big Box Reit	141¼	+3	...	2.5
447.78	Tritax Eurobox	55½	+2⅞	...	...
594.79	Tyman	303	+1	...	11.9
4,021.75	**Unite**‡	923	+2½	...	10.7
3,253.37	Vistry Group	941	+141	...	8.2
351.36	Warehouse REIT‡	82⅝	+1⅜	...	1.9
956.80	Workspace Grp	498½	+12⅛	...	-7.4
18.61	Wynnstay Props♦	690	...	...	5.0

Consumer goods

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.97	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
11.99	Airea♦	29	-2½	...	10.7
295.62	Anglo-Eastern‡	746	+8	...	6.8
105.17	Animalcare♦	175	...	...	...
15,981.14	**AB Foods**	2081	+97	...	34.4
551.61	Bakkavor Group‡	95⅛	-5¾	...	9.9
542.78	Barr (AG)	484½	-4	...	17.2
9.43	Bidstack Group♦	⅝	...	...	-0.6
7.82	Brand Architekts♦	28	-½	...	-1.2
60,426.87	**Brit Amer Tob**	2702	+110	...	9.1
2,257.06	Britvic	886	+11½	...	20.0
7,990.95	**Burberry**	2158	+32	...	18.5
522.67	C&C Grp	133	-3¾	...	-7.9
2.98	Capital Metals♦	1	...	...	-0.2
117.92	Carr's Grp‡	125¼	-3¾	...	15.4
53.31	Character Grp♦	276	+9	...	4.9
144.62	Churchill China♦	1315	+20	...	...
8,415.34	**Coca Cola HBC**	2285	+28	...	18.2
55.01	Colefax♦‡	760	+10	...	13.4
1,924.54	Cranswick	3572	+114	...	18.8
562.20	Devro	329	+½	...	17.8
71,054.57	**Diageo**‡	3162	-38	...	24.3
3.42	Distil♦	½	...	...	12.5
388.39	Evans (M.P.)♦	724	-42	...	6.2
116.04	Finsbury Food♦	89	-2	...	10.6
3,781.84	Games Workshop	11490	+970	...	31.6
3,448.55	Glanbia‡	1300⅛	-10¼	...	32.0
382.17	Greencore	79	-½	...	15.8
185.77	Headlam	230	...	...	9.9
689.94	Hilton Food	770	+60	...	16.0
28.03	Hornby♦	16½	-½	...	78.5
15,774.17	**Imperial Brands**‡	1756	...	...	5.8
2.62	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	+⅛	...	7.9
12,375.47	Kerry Gp	6987	-271	...	19.3
70.67	McBride	40½	+1⅝	...	-7.2
120.15	Mulberry Group♦	200	...	...	8.2
385.73	Nichols♦	1057½	+2½	...	...
131.23	Norcros	147	-7	...	4.6
309.04	Origin Ents♦	276⅛	-8½	...	8.7
0.77	Pittards♦#	5⅜	-1	...	2.5
39.88	Portmeirion♦	285	-8	...	12.1
14.42	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
714.26	PZ Cussons	166½	+10⅜	...	19.2
22.90	REA	52¼	...	...	-4.1
1.19	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
11.49	Tandem♦	210	...	...	3.0
301.37	Treatt	493	-18	...	19.7
0.94	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2⅜	-⅛	...	-1.6
...	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
103,226.27	**Unilever**	4103½	+61	...	21.0
726.81	Victoria♦	632	+101	...	...

Engineering

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
0.31	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
191.84	Avon Rubber	634	-1	...	...
1,972.84	Babcock	390⅛	+6⅜	...	-2.4
31,986.04	**BAE**	1051	+23½	...	19.2
21.24	Braime A N/V♦	1475	...	...	16.6
26.64	Braime Group♦	1850	...	...	20.8
13.89	Caffyns	515	...	...	7.4
11.28	Cap XX Ld♦	1½	+⅛	...	-3.3
148.19	Castings	341	+1	...	16.4
4.14	Chamberlin♦	3	...	...	-0.2
31.86	Checkit♦	29½	+3½	...	-3.6
202.80	Cohort♦‡	489	-16	...	43.4
112.50	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
68.58	Dewhurst♦	855	...	...	9.8
77.67	Dialight	234	+8	...	...
2,338.74	Electrolux 'B'	850¾	+37½	...	6.4
10.60	Feedback♦	79½	-8	...	...
130.48	Gooch Hsego♦	506	-8	...	37.4
393.50	Goodwin‡	5240	+445	...	28.9
8,150.99	**Halma**	2147	-30	...	31.0
1,426.91	Hill & Smith	1780	+46	...	41.8
2.58	Holders Tech♦‡	61	...	...	3.7
2.46	Image Scan♦	1¾	...	...	10.5
3,944.18	**IMI**‡	1512	+19	...	20.6
0.77	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
582.05	Judges Scientific♦	8800	-270	...	44.4
11.80	LPA♦	87½	...	...	...
6,261.19	Meggitt	798¾	+¾	...	...
6,830.36	**Melrose**‡	505⅜	-5⅜	...	...
716.28	Morgan Advanced	251	+5½	...	10.5
39.21	Mpac♦	191½	+4	...	5.0
116.67	MS Intl♦	715	+10	...	...
1,327.03	Oxford Inst‡	2295	+65	...	31.3
...	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
4.21	PipeHawk♦	11½	...	...	24.6
12.18	Pressure Tech♦	31½	-1	...	-2.6
2,800.90	Renishaw	3848	+300	...	21.9
67.63	Renold♦	30	-½	...	10.7
19,139.57	**Rolls-Royce**	227⅜	+7	...	...
1.69	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
2,665.36	Rotork‡	309½	+6⅜	...	33.6
111.85	SDI Group♦	107½	+5	...	17.7
704.62	Senior	168	-7½	...	29.3
191.91	Severfield‡	62	+⅜	...	11.0
3.06	Six Hundred♦	2⅜	-¼	...	14.0
5,644.58	SKF B	1325	+44¾	...	9.8
2.78	Slingsby (HC)♦	265	...	...	4.3
5,848.68	**Smiths**	1680	+21½	...	26.7
146.82	Solid State♦‡	1295	-20	...	31.2
167.18	Somero Enter♦	300	...	...	6.6
3,481.21	Spectris	3374	+50	...	11.1
7,313.17	**Spirax-Sarco**	9914	-70	...	31.2
73.73	Surface Trsfms♦	30½	-1¾	...	...
6.60	Tanfield♦	4	+¼	...	...
468.93	Thorpe FW♦	400	+15	...	27.8
17.14	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
15.58	Transense Tech♦	100½	+3	...	73.9
2,513.35	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+8	...	37.4
1,174.90	Vesuvius‡	433⅛	-3¾	...	11.5
247.91	Videndum	532	+15	...	9.7
585.93	Volex♦	323	+7	...	17.6
5,078.01	**Weir**	1956	+50	...	33.0
441.24	XP Power‡	2235	+60	...	11.9
7.88	Zytronic♦	77½	...	...	25.8

Health

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,810.87	Abcam♦	1226	-41	...	...
394.46	AdvancedMedical♦	181½	-3¾	...	28.5
19.35	Allergy Therap♦	2¾	...	...	-3.3
42.34	Angle♦	16¼	+⅜	...	-2.2
54.74	Anpario♦	227½	...	...	11.9
169,558.77	**AstraZeneca**	10940	+94	...	...
4,586.21	**Convatec**‡	224⅛	-½	...	52.3
21.56	Creighton	31½	...	...	6.0
4,341.42	Dechra Pharma	3812	+6	...	56.9
3.32	Deltex Medical♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
76.33	e-Therapeutics♦	13	-2⅜	...	...
81.29	Eco Animal Hlth♦	120	+11	...	14.5
118.88	EKF Diagnostics♦	26⅛	-¾	...	7.4
156.97	Futura Medical♦	52⅛	+2⅛	...	...
1,420.92	Genus	2152	+44	...	38.2
61,818.37	**GSK**‡	1509½	+65⅜	...	17.4
1.57	Gunsynd♦	¼	...	...	3.4
30,446.39	**Haleon**‡	329⅝	+10¾	...	...
4,559.51	Hikma Pharms‡	2063	-23	...	15.4
2,203.61	Hutchmed China♦	253	+26	...	...
8.20	ImmuPharma♦	2	...	...	-0.6
2,495.32	Indivior	1809	-27	...	...
30.36	Inspiration Health♦	44½	+½	...	6.8
9.38	IXICO♦	19⅜	-½	...	6.2
3,693.59	Mediclinic	501	+1	...	31.3
3.04	N4 Pharma♦	1¼	-⅛	...	-1.5

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
285.90	NIOX Group♦‡	68	+ ½	...	68.0
CHF 190.82bn	Novartis	CHF 92.26	+ 4.14	...	10.5
5.23	Omega Diags♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.8
1.51	Ovoca Bio♦	1¾	- ⅛	...	-0.5
250.19	Oxford Biomedica	259	- 43	...	11.6
2.57	Physiomics♦	1⅞	+ ⅛	...	-7.3
18.89	Proteome Scies♦	6⅜	+ ⅛	...	...
41,348.28	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	5762	- 44	...	...
3.88	RUA Life Sciences♦	17½	+ 1¼	...	-1.6
54.66	Sareum Hldgs♦	78	- 4½	...	...
9,297.28	**Smith & Neph**	1064½	- 2½	...	24.1
895.13	Spire Hcare	221½	+ 11½	...	...
17.31	Synairgen♦	8½	...	...	-0.3
38.11	Tissue Regenix♦	54	...	...	...
15.23	Totally♦‡	7¾	- ½	...	12.3
179.78	Tristel♦	380	+ 15	...	78.3
6.80	ValiRx♦	6⅝	+ ¼	...	...

Industrials

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
157.19	Accsys Tech♦	71⅜	+ 2	...	...
35,519.95	BASF	3979⅝	+ 152¼	...	7.8
41,760.68	Bayer DM50	4250¾	- 67⅞	...	49.6
5.96	Biome Tech♦	157½	...	...	-5.2
7.49	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	...
4.98	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
1,225.52	Coats Grp	76⅝	+ ⅞	...	17.1
6,990.15	**Croda**‡	5006	- 234	...	21.8
74.53	Cropper (James)♦‡	780	+ 35	...	23.7
682.20	Elementis	116⅛	- ⅜	...	...
6.77	Hardide♦	11½	...	...	-2.2
3,193.01	**Johnson Math**	1740½	- 9½	...	21.9
6,491.85	**Mondi**‡	1337	+ 45½	...	10.2
15.50	Robinson♦	92½	...	...	...
4,066.24	**DS Smith**‡	295⅛	+ 5¼	...	16.7
5,040.97	Swire Pacific	588¼	- 8⅛	...	...
12.94	Symph Environ♦	7	- 1	...	...
223.29	Synthomer	47¾	+ ¼	...	0.9
41,958.43	Takeda Pharm	2651⅝	+ 182⅛	...	14.8
23.13	Velocys♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7
1,273.95	Victrex	1464	- 10	...	17.4
91.53	Wynnstay Group♦	400	- 12½	...	9.1
171.94	Zotefoams‡	352	+ 7	...	21.1

Leisure

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
559.36	888 Hldgs	124⅝	- 3⅜	...	9.2
298.15	Accesso Tech♦	710	+ 10	...	18.6
44.85	Best of the Best♦	530	...	...	5.9
14,245.42	Carnival	1125	+ 38½	...	-1.8
120.62	Celtic♦	127½	+ 2½	...	12.6
5.23	Cineworld#	⅜	...	...	...
1,624.17	Domino's Pizza‡	394⅜	+ 2	...	20.1
7,368.31	**Entain**‡	1153½	- 19½	...	25.8
26,370.51	**Flutter Ent**	14930	+ 725	...	...
102.01	Gaming Realms♦	34¾	- 1⅛	...	...
14.58	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
7.54	Heavitree A♦	150	...	...	9.0
1.87	Hermes Pacific♦	80	- 10	...	...
10,487.68	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	6296	+ 162	...	58.9
6.20	Minoan Gp♦	¾	...	...	-5.8
1,362.04	Mitch & Butlers	228	+ 8⅛	...	...
197.97	On The Beach	118¾	+ 22⅜	...	-6.2
457.47	PPHE Hotels	1080	- 10	...	-8.7
398.17	Rank Grp	85	+ ⅛	...	11.4
374.50	Restaurant Gp	48⅞	+ 1⅜	...	-9.2
13.03	Rotala♦	42	...	...	...
7.76	Sportech♦	77½	- 19¼	...	...
1,946.72	SSP	244⅜	+ 13½	...	-4.7
3.44	Tasty♦	2¼	...	...	3.1
11.97	Tintra♦#	67½	...	...	-1.1
2,445.82	Tui	482	+ 17⅛	...	-5.0
5.70	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
912.19	Wetherspoon JD	708½	+ 21	...	-6.6
7,145.99	**Whitbread**	3678	+ 78	...	...
634.56	Young & Co - A♦	1085	- 30	...	...
459.10	Young & Co - N/V♦	785	- 5	...	...

Media

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
7.30	Aeorema Comms♦	76½	...	...	21.1
33.65	Altitude Group♦	47½	- 2½	...	...
13.51	Arcontech Grp♦	101	+ 4½	...	13.9
926.97	Ascential	205½	+ 6⅝	...	...
5,677.02	**Auto Trader**‡	619⅜	+ 17⅛	...	30.5
338.27	Bloomsbury Pub	414½	+ 14½	...	17.0
0.79	Bonhill Group♦	⅝	+ ⅛	...	-1.5
24.71	Catalyst Media♦	117½	- 1½	...	...
0.40	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
2.54	DCD Media♦#	100	- 50	...	5.0
62.66	Ebiquity♦	46	...	...	...
948.22	Future	791½	+ 69	...	13.6
1,335.14	GlobalData♦‡	158	+ 4½	...	7.8
351.72	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
139.90	IG Design Grp♦	142½	+ 10	...	20.8
10,562.24	**Informa**‡	760	+ 19	...	...
2,935.44	ITV	72¾	+ 1¾	...	7.8
4.43	Jaywing♦	4¾	...	...	...
5.33	Live Company Gp♦#	2	...	...	-0.4
601.85	ME Group	159⅛	+ 2⅛	...	27.7
0.63	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-4.5
11.50	Merit Grp♦	48	+ 3½	...	...
0.14	Mirada♦	1½	- 1⅜	...	...
37.77	Mission Group♦	41½	- ½	...	7.0
1,364.71	Moneysupermarket	254⅛	+ 6	...	25.9
6,269.22	News Corp A	1645⅝	- 53⅛	...	26.8
3,264.60	News Corp B	1701¾	- 45½	...	27.7
637.83	Next 15 Group♦	640	- 6	...	...
6,412.04	**Pearson**‡	894⅛	+ 12⅜	...	42.7
4.13	Primorus Inv♦	2⅞	...	...	5.3
44.98	Quarto	110	- 5	...	6.1
242.82	Reach‡	76⅜	+ 4¾	...	84.8
17.19	REACT Grp♦	1⅝	...	...	23.2
52,950.72	**Relx**	2800	+ 78	...	36.9
4,555.66	**Rightmove**	561½	- 1⅛	...	31.7
1.55	SpaceandPeople♦	79½	...	...	...
97.65	STV Group	209	+ 14	...	5.1
27.26	System1 Group♦	215	...	...	10.2
6,591.76	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2598⅜	+ 68½	...	14.2
5,635.80	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2392¼	+ 60⅞	...	13.1
3.09	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
282.12	Wilmington	320	+ 10	...	20.3
8,304.20	**WPP**	772½	+ 12	...	14.7
19.35	Zinc Media♦	87½	+ 7½	...	-5.5

Natural resources

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1.85	ADM Energy♦	½	...	...	...
2.67	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
112.69	AFC Energy♦	15	- 1¼	...	...
53.58	Afentra PLC♦#	24¼	...	...	...
7.50	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.0
12.80	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-6.7
1,559.89	Alumina	53¾	+ ¼	...	11.2
45.27	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.3
1.25	Amur Mins Corp♦#	...	...	...	-2.0
8,070.10	Anglo Amer Plat	3041⅞	+ 3016¾	...	2.1
30,797.73	**Anglo American**‡	2302½	+ 279½	...	4.5
78.83	Anglo Asian Mng♦	69	+ 13	...	5.9
14,704.05	**Antofagasta**‡	1491½	+ 25	...	15.4
38.00	Arc Minerals♦	3	- ¼	...	2.2
30.95	Ariana Res♦	2⅝	...	...	3.6
1.28	Arkle Resources♦	¼	...	...	-1.0
4.85	Armadale Cap♦	¾	...	...	...
24.46	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
490.98	Atalaya Mine♦‡	351	+ 23	...	4.4
15.76	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
17.36	Beowulf Mining♦	1½	...	...	-6.5
2.67	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.7
120,634.22	BHP Group‡	2382	+ 175	...	10.4
14.71	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2	- ⅛	...	...
68.74	Bougainville	17⅛	- 1	...	...
6.03	BowLeven♦	1¾	...	...	-2.2
89,879.50	**BP**‡	523⅛	+ 5⅞	...	18.9
14.93	Cadence Min♦	8¼	+ 1¼	...	0.8
4.39	Cadogan Petrol	1¾	...	...	25.0
155.42	Caledonia Mining♦	810	+ 35	...	7.9
248.82	Capricorn Energy	174⅛	+ 9½	...	1.3
66.39	Caspian Sunrise♦	2⅞	- ⅛	...	86.7
1,044.33	Centamin‡	90⅛	+ 3¾	...	13.9
374.72	Cent Asia Metals♦	206	+ 4½	...	6.0
34.48	Chaarat Gold♦	5	- ¼	...	...
140.16	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13	- ¾	...	...
2.77	China Nonferr Gold♦	⅝	- ⅛	...	-5.0
3.48	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.3
39.83	Condor Gld♦	21¼	- 1¼	...	...
6.50	Corcel♦	⅜	...	...	-0.4
622.41	DRD Gold	71⅞	+ 71⅛	...	8.4
2.69	ECR Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-1.4
8.77	Empyrean Energy♦	⅞	...	...	-6.3
4,089.75	**Endeavour**‡	1658	+ 104	...	24.6
283.08	EnQuest	15	...	...	0.9
85.76	Eurasia Mining♦	3	...	...	...
11.75	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅛	...	...	11.1
500.94	Ferrexpo	83¾	+ 5⅜	...	0.6
4,337.36	**Fresnillo**	588½	+ 34⅛	...	13.9
43.86	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
16.08	Galantas Gold♦	14	- ¼	...	-2.3
3.94	GCM Resources♦	1⅞	- ⅛	...	-1.5
22.75	Gem Diamonds	16¼	- ⅞	...	1.7
5.67	Getech♦	8⅜	- ¼	...	-2.0
56,433.12	**Glencore**‡	456⅜	+ 30⅜	...	16.7
1.35	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-1.6
8,894.56	Gold Fields	995⅜	+ 985⅜	...	15.3
10.66	Goldplat♦	6¼	- ¼	...	4.8
10.72	Goldstone Res♦#	2⅛	- ¾	...	-9.9
400.42	Greatld Gld♦	7⅞	+ 1¾	...	...
177.59	Griffin Mining♦	92	+ 11⅛	...	10.1
217.55	Gulf Keystone	97¾	+ 7⅛	...	6.1
22.50	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13	- ¼	...	1.0
445.52	Hochschild	86½	+ 3⅛	...	8.3
350.32	Horizonte Minrls♦	130	- 4	...	...
489.87	Hunting PLC	297	+ 41	...	-7.5
1.59	Independ Res♦#	...	...	...	...
257.99	Indus Gas♦	141	...	...	14.6
10.90	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.3
516.08	ITM Power♦	83⅝	+ 3⅝	...	...
193.04	Jubilee Metals♦	7	...	...	5.8
4.63	Karel Diamd Res♦	4⅞	+ ⅜	...	...
35.10	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅝	...	...	-2.9
410.14	Kenmare Res	432½	+ 12½	...	5.0
37.60	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
12.08	Landore Res♦	9⅞	- ⅜	...	-2.2
1.35	Lansdowne O&G♦	...	...	...	-2.8
3.14	Leeds Group♦	11½	+ 1½	...	-1.8
19.59	Lexington Gold♦	5⅞	...	...	...
29.97	MC Mining♦	7½	- ¼	...	-1.5
42.97	Metals Explorn♦	2	...	...	3.5
1.27	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
2.03	Nostrum O&G	12	+ ½	...	-0.1
4,549.45	Oil Search	218⅞	+ 5⅜	...	60.3
13.60	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
3.86	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.0
3.54	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
5.47	Orosur Mining♦	2⅞	- ⅛	...	-4.3
273.68	Pan African Res♦	14¼	+ ¼	...	4.6
254.20	Pantheon Res♦	28	+ 5⅝	...	...
17.76	Parkmead Grp♦	16¼	- 1½	...	-1.4
2.06	Pathfinder Mins♦	¼	- ⅛	...	-2.7
135.94	Petra Diamonds	70	...	...	2.3
1.78	Petrel Resources♦	1	...	...	-5.0
36.20	Petro Matad♦	3¼	- ½	...	...
415.81	Petrofac	79⅝	+ 2⅝	...	-2.0
0.91	Petroneft Res♦#	...	...	...	-0.2
47.51	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	+ ⅛	...	1.6
181.13	Phoenix Global♦	6½	- ½	...	-1.6
14.91	Plexus Holdings♦	14¾	+ ¾	...	-3.6
1,018.30	Polymetal Intl#	215	...	...	...
273.52	Porvair	590	- 10	...	22.6
17.97	Prospex Energy♦	5¾	- ½	...	-7.6
128.20	Proton Motor Power S♦	8¼	...	...	-1.5
34.84	Providence Res♦	3¼	- ⅛	...	29.0
15.20	Quadrise♦	⅞	...	...	-3.7
8.71	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
9.38	Reabold Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.7
3.65	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
22,926.96	Rio Tinto Ltd	6176⅛	+ 301¾	...	6.4
85,803.37	**Rio Tinto**‡	5289	+ 454½	...	5.5
74.24	San Leon Energy♦#	16½	+ 4	...	6.1
4.05	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
17.04	Serabi Gold♦	22½	- 1	...	3.0
1,029.33	Serica Energy♦	267	+ 10½	...	...
109.09	Shanta Gold♦	10⅜	+ ⅛	...	6.5
171,772.06	**Shell**‡	2580	+ 77½	...	13.6
4.37	Shuka Minerals♦	11¼	- 2	...	-0.7
18.14	Sound Energy♦	⅞	...	...	5.9
12.49	Star Energy♦	9¾	...	...	-0.5
3.48	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	-9.4
2.44	Tertiary Minerals♦	...	...	...	-3.2
4.42	Thor Mining♦	1¾	...	...	...
128,679.07	Total Eng SE	5357¼	+ 256⅜	...	12.2
3.12	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.7
506.61	Tullow Oil	34⅞	- 1⅞	...	3.5
7.17	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-1.1
2.06	URU Metals♦	125	...	...	4.0
8.53	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	...
9.99	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	- ⅛	...	-1.8
3.89	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
2.74	Westmount Engy♦	1⅞	...	...	-0.4
1,129.08	Wood Grp (J)	163⅛	+ 2⅞	...	-6.7
21.56	Woodbois♦	½	...	...	2.2
11.56	Xtract Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-2.4
56.50	Zephyr Energy♦	3¼	- ⅛	...	-4.2

Professional & support services

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
1,439.62	4imprint Grp‡	5110	+ 100	...	86.2
264.84	Andrews Sykes♦	630	...	...	20.1
22,804.14	**Ashtead**	5206	+ 16	...	25.3
1.26	Asimilar Group♦	1	- ¼	...	...
53.58	AssetCo♦	38	- 1	...	0.2
53.20	Avisen♦	48	- 2	...	...
175.46	Begbies Traynor♦	112	- 7¼	...	...
170.35	Blancco Tech♦	225	- 1	...	80.6
9,658.94	**Bunzl**	2858	+ 51	...	21.6
291.43	Capita	17⅛	+ ¾	...	1.3
8.61	CEPS♦	41	...	...	-9.3
29.18	Christie Group♦	110	+ 5	...	46.8
35,671.59	**Compass**	2072	+ 23	...	50.4
13.89	CPPGroup♦	157	- ½	...	...
6.71	Croma Security♦	49	- ½	...	7.0
4,583.93	**DCC**	4641	+ 257	...	15.3
120.45	De La Rue	61½	+ 4	...	8.0
4,189.92	Diploma	3126	- 22	...	55.9
676.42	Discoverie	702	- 25	...	57.5
14.37	Driver Group♦	27½	...	...	13.1
424.04	Essentra	145⅜	- ¾	...	16.3
25,880.44	**Experian**	2812	+ 34	...	36.0
25,265.42	Ferguson	12380	+ 10	...	18.2
30.30	FIH Group♦	242	...	...	...
10.30	Grafenia♦	9	...	...	-6.6
151.64	Hargeaves Serv♦	464	- 8½	...	4.8
318.39	Impellam Grp♦	710	+ 10	...	38.8
18.90	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
6,831.77	**Intertek**‡	4233	+ 28	...	23.7
1,672.11	IWG	166	- 3	...	-6.3
565.46	Johnson Srvce♦	134	+ ⅛	...	83.7
30.57	Journeo♦	188½	- ½	...	42.2
447.21	Kier Gp	100⅛	+ 13	...	9.7
226.80	Latham (J)♦	1125	+ 10	...	6.1
239.86	Lok'n Store♦	732	+ 16	...	22.2
367.80	Lon Security♦	3000	...	...	16.5
291.14	LSL Prop Services	280	+ 47	...	7.8
173.26	Macfarlane‡	109	- 1½	...	12.6
22.98	Maintel Hldgs♦	160	- 5	...	4.9
6.23	Malvern Intl♦	25½	+ 1	...	...
297.99	Mears Group	287	+ 13	...	24.9
1,422.06	Mitie Gp	106	+ 3¾	...	53.0
6.38	MobilityOne♦	6	+ 1¼	...	4.4
4.87	Newmark Sec♦	52	- 2	...	...
3.40	Norm Broadbent♦	5½	...	...	...
10.30	Northern Bear♦‡	55	+ ½	...	5.6
118.58	NWF Grp♦	240	+ 5	...	...
1,360.48	PageGroup‡	414	+ 11¾	...	11.1
30.76	PCI-PAL♦	47	...	...	-9.7
3.89	Petards♦	6⅞	...	...	12.5
2.37	PHSC♦	21½	- 1	...	39.0
21.45	PowerHouse Egy♦	½	...	...	-0.9
157.25	Record	79	+ 2½	...	21.7
752.46	Redde Northgate‡	329½	...	...	8.2
566.60	Renew Hldgs♦	716	+ 8	...	17.7
407.70	Renewi	508	+ 16½	...	10.7
15,216.00	**Rentokil**	603¾	+ 14¾	...	42.8
264.26	Restore♦	193	- 7	...	22.9
321.05	Ricardo	516	- 4	...	46.0
271.82	Robert Walters‡	375	+ 19	...	8.5
4.06	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13½	...	...	2.0
613.30	RPS Group	221	...	...	...
3,522.23	**RS Group**	744	- 3½	...	18.8
8.57	RTC Group♦	58½	+ 7	...	...
973.00	RWS Hldgs♦	254	+ 20	...	23.3
187.76	Science Group♦	407	- 3	...	18.7
1,681.80	Serco‡	152⅜	+ 2½	...	6.2
108.99	Smiths News	44	+ ¾	...	4.2
7,507.90	**Smurfit Kappa**	2886	- 112	...	13.1
43.56	Staffline Gp♦	28⅜	- ⅜	...	21.8
483.61	SThree	359½	+ 4	...	11.6
20.02	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
41.97	Thruvision Group♦	28½	- 1½	...	...
103.99	Tribal♦	49	+ 5½	...	15.3
22.61	Vianet♦‡	76½	- 2	...	...
208.80	Vp	520	- 20	...	12.8
4.63	Westminster♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7

Real estate

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
2,267.63	Shaftesbury Cap‡	116	- 1½	...	34.1

Retailing

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
493.52	AO World	85¼	- 8⅜	...	...
5,782.56	**B&M European**	577	+ 14⅛	...	13.4
97.30	Brown (N)♦	21	- ¾	...	6.1
359.27	Card Factory	104¾	+ 1	...	...
1,064.30	CVS Group♦	1490	- 116	...	41.7
271.61	DFS Furn	116	+ 6	...	6.1
2,269.47	Dunelm	1125	+ 3	...	15.1
3,665.39	**Frasers Group**	804½	+ 6	...	35.7
2,597.29	Greggs‡	2540	+ 142	...	22.2
431.73	Halfords‡	197⅛	+ 4⅝	...	6.5
4,110.66	Howden Joinery	749⅛	+ 13½	...	14.1
3,273.08	Inchcape	792½	+ 26½	...	26.7
7.67	IQ-AI	4⅛	...	...	...
7,238.06	**JD Sports**	139⅝	+ 1⅞	...	16.8
4,476.61	**Kingfisher**	236	+ 9⅞	...	5.9
494.11	Lookers	129⅜	+ ¾	...	8.3
4,332.95	Marks & Spencer	219⅝	- 2⅛	...	...
25.15	Mothercare♦	4⅜	- ⅝	...	-2.7
51.06	Naked Wines♦	69	- 1⅝	...	...
9,121.83	**Next**	7194	+ 86	...	13.7
6,318.52	**Ocado**	763½	- 63⅛	...	...
258.16	Pendragon	18⅜	+ ⅛	...	5.7
1,662.01	Pets at Home	348⅛	+ 2	...	14.2
177.53	Saga	125⅛	- 3¾	...	...
6,620.58	**Sainsbury's**	279½	+ 12⅝	...	23.5
1,840.63	WH Smith	1406	+ 24	...	...
58.95	Sosandar♦	23¾	+ 1	...	...
100.06	Studio Retail#	115	- 6	...	2.4
19,277.94	**Tesco**	270⅝	+ 12	...	13.7
95.59	Topps Tiles	48½	- ½	...	8.8

Technology

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
75.34	Access Intell♦	59	...	...	-8.1
19.46	Aferian plc♦	17½	- ½	...	3.1
467.93	Alfa Financial‡	158½	- 1½	...	24.8
32.89	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 4¼	...	-1.2
158.82	Aptitude Software	277	- 10	...	31.1
132.44	Bango♦	172½	+ 10	...	...
126.45	BATM Adv Coms	29	...	...	12.1
93.62	Berkeley Res	21	+ 1½	...	-8.9
36.83	Blackbird♦	10	+ ¼	...	...
5.47	CloudCoCo Group♦	¾	...	...	-1.8
2,830.70	Computacenter	2480	- 6	...	15.4
65.08	Concurrent Tech♦	76	+ 2½	...	18.0
33.26	Corero♦	6⅝	+ ⅜	...	...
557.72	Craneware♦	1580	+ 32½	...	72.0
16.11	Crimson Tide♦	2⅜	...	...	16.3
37.38	CyanConn Hldgs♦	13¾	- 1	...	...
72.77	D4t4 Solutions♦	182½	- 7½	...	21.6
2.66	Dillistone Group♦	13½	...	...	-3.9
17.87	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-1.8
599.37	FDM Group	547	- 10	...	18.9
34.74	Filtronic♦	16⅛	- ¼	...	43.6
445.48	First Derivts♦	1586	- 4	...	...
560.73	GB Group♦	222	...	...	16.9
123.38	GreshamTech	147½	- 1½	...	...
61.18	Ilika♦	38½	- 2	...	...
17.81	Ingenta♦	122½	+ 6	...	71.6
30.28	Intercede♦	52	...	...	17.9
193.85	Iomart♦	173	- 3	...	19.0
182.30	IQE♦	18⅞	+ 2	...	...
55.02	K3 Business Tch♦	123	...	...	-2.1
5,410.25	LG Electronics	1371⅜	+ 80⅝	...	3.6
3.71	Location Sciences♦#	⅛	...	...	-2.3
40.29	MTI Wireless♦	45½	+ ½	...	15.1
55.15	Nanoco Gp	17	- ⅛	...	...
140.39	Netcall♦	87½	+ 5	...	...
12.39	Northamber♦	45½	...	...	...
1.50	Online Blockchain♦	10½	- 1½	...	-5.5
126.51	Oxford Metrics♦	97	- 3½	...	42.1
2.83	Parity♦	2¾	...	...	-3.9
14.02	Pennant Intl♦	38	...	...	...
1,554.20	Playtech	502½	- 28½	...	5.2
1,941.15	QinetiQ	335⅜	+ 1	...	26.2
50.66	RM	60⅜	- 1½	...	12.0
10,558.27	**Sage**	1028½	+ 8½	...	39.4
250.19	Seeing Machines♦	6	+ ¼	...	...
10.96	Shearwater Grp♦	46	+ 2½	...	28.5
12.30	Smartspace S'ware♦	42½	+ ½	...	-4.4
2,923.49	Softcat	1465	- 52	...	28.7
822.84	Spirent Comms‡	142⅛	- 4⅝	...	13.2
91.54	SRT Marine♦	47½	- 2⅞	...	...
12,546.28	Tele. Ericsson	407	- 3	...	7.4
7.92	Touchstar♦	96¼	...	...	...
242.93	Tracsis♦	810	+ 40	...	...
8.50	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
20.74	Triad Grp	125	- 5	...	13.7
61.26	Wandisco♦	53⅜	- 12¾	...	-0.9
67.26	Water Intel♦	387½	- 12½	...	21.3
144.99	Xaar	184½	- 5½	...	...
16.45	Yourgene♦	½	...	...	-0.3
56.21	Zoo Digital♦	57½	- 3½	...	...

Telecoms

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
50.21	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	+ 1½	...	...
4,861.07	**Airtel Africa**	129½	+ 17	...	11.5
11,632.43	**BT Group**	117	+ 4¾	...	11.3
557.45	Currys plc	49⅛	...	...	2.3
1,148.35	Gamma Comms♦	1182	+ 28	...	21.4
854.06	Helios Towers	81¼	- 6¾	...	-7.3
2,465.82	Just Eat T'away	1121	+ 109	...	-2.4
4.81	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.5
5.85	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅜	...	...	-8.2
1,248.17	Telecom Plus	1570	+ 26	...	40.2
21,610.21	**Vodafone**	79¾	+ 6½	...	...

Transport

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
76.71	Braemar Ship#	233	+ 9	...	7.7
3,378.41	EasyJet	445⅝	+ 14⅛	...	-2.8
30.76	Esken Limited	3	- ⅜	...	-0.1
1,057.82	FirstGroup	156⅛	+ ½	...	37.1
168.84	Fisher (James)	335	- 2	...	-6.0
7,554.97	**International Airlines**	153⅝	- 1¼	...	-3.4
2,460.29	IDS	257¼	+ 4	...	2.9
669.54	Irish Cont Uts‡	394	+ 1	...	...
2,382.96	Jet2♦	1110	+ 23	...	-5.9
537.02	Mobico Group	87⅜	- 1	...	-5.2
335.95	Ocean Wilson	950	+ 16	...	4.8
588.37	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
20.14	Sutton Harbour♦	15½	- 2	...	-9.0
306.38	Wincanton	246	+ 8	...	6.6
2,128.66	Wizz Air	2060	+ 16	...	-4.6

Utilities

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
9,365.15	**Centrica**	169⅝	+ 7¾	...	17.1
1,658.27	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
1,918.52	Drax Group‡	497½	- 45	...	36.8
137.88	Jersey Electricity	450	...	...	8.5
37,710.22	**National Grid**	1022½	+ 26	...	23.8
35.06	OPG Power♦	8¾	+ ⅜	...	5.6
1,667.17	Pennon	638	+ 26½	...	46.2
3.09	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
6,277.66	**Severn Trent**	2486	+ 63	...	...
18,192.66	**SSE**‡	1668½	+ 42	...	6.5
6,720.69	**United Utilities**	985½	+ 33⅜	...	90.4

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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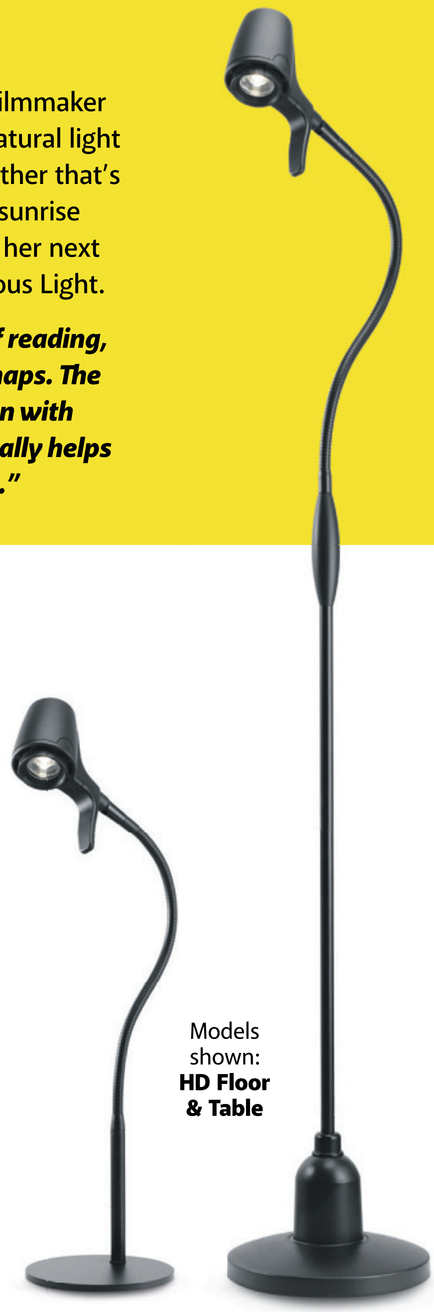
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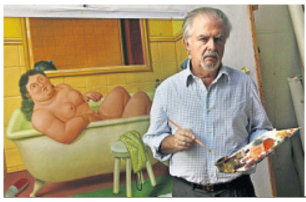
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Colombian artist famous for painting rotund figures
Fernando Botero
Page 50

Register

Obituaries

Sir Horace Ové

Acclaimed director whose groundbreaking films chronicled the struggle of the Windrush generation to gain acceptance in Britain

When Horace Ové left Trinidad for Britain in 1960, he was full of optimism that he was heading for the land of opportunity and that his dreams of becoming a film-maker would be fulfilled.

"It did give me opportunities, but it was a long hard struggle," he later said. "I didn't have any money so I couldn't get into film school and I encountered terrible racism. You sensed this aggression; people would call you names and push you off the pavement. You couldn't get a job. Everywhere you went, on the doors it said 'no blacks, no Irish, no dogs'."

When he got his first glimmer of an opportunity as an extra in the 1963 film *Cleopatra* starring Elizabeth Taylor, he played a slave, which, he noted ruefully, was just about the only imaginable role for a black person in a Hollywood film at that time.

After eventually getting a place at the London School of Film Technique, where he was one of only two black students, he began to chronicle the black British experience.

As a photographer he documented the rise of the Black Power movement and such flashpoints as the clashes between police and black immigrants at the Notting Hill Carnival. When it came to moving images, he earned an entry in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the first black British film-maker to direct a feature-length film — although it took him 14 years to raise the money.

With gritty, naturalistic performances and a smart combination of drama and documentary techniques, *Pressure* told the story of Tony, the bright, British-born son of an immigrant family from Trinidad who finds himself adrift between two cultures and joins the burgeoning Black Power movement.

Ové's aim was to show "that black people were fighting for their rights under a very racist situation". The film included a hard-hitting scene in which police officers raided a Black Power meeting and beat and harassed peaceful activists without cause.

Ové completed the film in 1974 but the depiction of police brutality led the British Film Institute (BFI), which had funded the production, to demand that he cut the scene. "As black Londoners we were aware of what was happening but when we made the film they didn't want to admit it was true," he said.

He refused to change the film and so the BFI shelved the project. It took two years of lobbying to force a change of mind and *Pressure* was belatedly released in 1976 to critical acclaim. Today it is regarded as a seminal classic, and half a century later the BFI tried to make amends with a generous tribute to Ové for "showing generations of black film-makers that it could be done, and that their voices have power".

Ové went on to make more than 30 feature films and documentaries, many of which are being shown in a BFI retrospective season next month to celebrate Black History Month, titled *Power to the People: Horace Ové's Radical Vision*. His photographs chronicling the black British experience have been similarly fêted, exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery, the V&A Museum, Somerset House, the Tate Liverpool and the Barbican Centre.

Despite the obstacles he had to overcome, he never lost faith that a multiracial society could operate in a spirit of tolerance and harmony. The photograph he was most proud of captures a young black couple on their way to the 1971 Notting Hill Carnival. In the background an elderly white couple at a bus stop "look like they're wondering what the hell is going on". The image acted out a "historical transition", Ové believed. "The old couple represent traditional Britain while the young couple are facing forwards, walking towards a new, multicultural Britain."

He never lost faith in his view that a multiracial society could flourish

He embodied the "new Britain" in his personal life too, and his first marriage to Mary Irvine, a white Irish immigrant, led to further racist abuse at a time when Enoch Powell was warning that the white population was being "made strangers in their own country".

Ové was also married for a time to Annabelle Alcazar, a producer who worked on several of his films. He is survived by four children from his first marriage: Ezana, a make-up artist; Indra, who began her career as an actress in the 1980 ITV series *The Latchkey Children*, directed by her father; Kaz, a film director; and Zak, a visual artist working in film, photography and sculpture.

Ové was appointed CBE in 2007 for his contribution to the film industry and knighted in the 2022 new year honours. "Quite a surprise, considering how controversial my films have been," he noted. "But one I accept graciously."

Horace Shango Ové was born in 1936 in Belmont, Trinidad, a crumbling but vibrant suburb of Port of Spain that had first been settled 100 years earlier by Africans rescued by the Royal Navy from illegal slaving ships.

He grew up in what he called a bohemian family, with a mixture of African, Indian and European blood. His parents, Lorna and Lawrence, used the name Jones because it was more "respectable" in colonial society. They ran a shop and a café but "everybody was interested in art — painting, drawing, sculpting, preparing costumes for carnival," Ové later said. One of his brothers led a steel band and he later made the 1973 film *King Carnival* for the BBC about Trinidad's Mardi Gras party.

Contemporaries growing up in Belmont included the future Black Power leaders Stokely Carmichael and Michael X, both of whom Ové would later photograph.

Cinema was his passion from an early age. While the Americans used Trinidad to train soldiers in jungle warfare they built cinemas to entertain the troops, where the young Ové saw all the latest Hollywood pictures. He also owned a camera and took his first photograph of his nanny, Dewdrop.

By the time he arrived in Britain, the Windrush generation was already established if not widely accepted and Ové found himself doing the jobs nobody else wanted to do, including working in the morgue at the National Temperance Hospital.

When he landed the part as an extra in *Cleopatra* he jumped at the opportunity to go to Rome, where the film was being shot on location. He stayed for three years and worked as a runner for the great Italian directors Fellini, Antonioni and Pasolini before returning to London in 1965, when he got a grant to attend film school.

His first significant film was a 1969 documentary in which the activists James Baldwin and Dick Gregory discussed the black struggle. He had himself attended the inaugural meeting of the British Black Power movement, set up by his compatriot Michael X. "If you had any kind of political consciousness, you got involved," he said.

He followed with the 1970 documentary *Reggae*, the first in-depth film about the genre, well before Bob Marley took it to the mainstream.

After the troubled saga of *Pressure*, Ové courted further controversy with *A Hole In Babylon* (1979), commissioned by BBC Television for its *Play for Today* slot. It recreated the 1975 Spaghetti House siege, during which three black radicals were holed up in a Knightsbridge restaurant that they had tried to rob, allegedly with plans to use the money to open a school to teach black children about African history.

Making brilliant use of archival news footage that was cross-cut with dramatic sequences, Ové attempted to humanise the protagonists and sympathetically explored their motives. The BBC came under pressure to ban the film but resisted.

One of his finest and most underrated films was *Playing Away* (1987), which had a spiky, comic script by Caryl Phillips about a cricket team of black people from Brixton who are invited to play against a Suffolk village side whose social attitudes were firmly stuck in the colonial era. It caused the critic Barry Norman to remark sniffily that "Horace Ové is black and he knows about black people but he does not know about white people." Ové responded: "What the whites don't recognise is that we spend our lives studying them because we have to in order to survive."

He also directed episodes of the TV series *Empire Road* and the 1991 TV serialisation of Phyllis Shand Allfrey's novel *The Orchid House*, shot on the Caribbean island of Dominica.

He hoped that his films helped to give black Britain a sense of worth and the strength to resist discrimination. "Back in the day people were more subservient and downtrodden. Now they have far more ambition and know how to survive against the odds," he said. "I've always made films to help society see itself and in that process hope that people can work things out by relating what they've seen to their own lives."

Sir Horace Ové, film-maker and photographer, was born on December 3, 1936. He died after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease on September 16, 2023, aged 86

DUNCAN BAXTER/TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD





Ové in 1978 and, right, Pressure, his seminal 1976 film starring Herbert Norville as the son of a family from Trinidad who joins the growing Black Power movement

Register

Fernando Botero

Colombian painter and sculptor whose depictions of rotund and often grotesque figures made him famous around the world

Fernando Botero was the most celebrated Latin American artist of the second half of the 20th century. By the early years of the 21st he was also the one who could command the highest prices for his works, some of which were executed on a monumental scale.

He turned out more than 3,000 paintings, 200 sculptures and countless drawings. He was associated for a while with the Latin American "magical realism" boom of the Seventies, like his literary compatriot Gabriel García Márquez — but, again like the novelist, he long outlived and transcended that passing fashion. Also like him, he had to leave his homeland to gain perspective on it and develop his distinctive vision. He said many years later: "The artist is universal only when he is firmly rooted in his own parish." The enormous popularity that his work achieved, from Tokyo to Stockholm, Tel Aviv to Turin, showed how right he was.

Botero always went his own way and could never be identified with any particular school, tendency or artistic theory. Over the years he evolved a highly personal style, characterised by grotesquely bloated, expressionless figures. Some of his best-known paintings were of archetypal Latin American military juntas and ruling cliques, which were more like pastiches of Diego Velázquez's portraits of the Spanish royal family than depictions of reality. His early critics, particularly in the United States, were disconcerted by his apparent preoccupation with painting fat people. Botero denied that was his intention, pointing out that inanimate objects in his paintings were rotund too, not just the people. "Painting is a world of its own," he explained. "A still life is not a botanical engraving. The issue is not the fruit, but the picture. The same goes for men and women."

Throughout his career he insisted that he was interested in style and form, not themes, which were just an excuse for picking up the brush or pencil: "For me the problem is how to create sensuousness through form," he said, adding that his experience of living and working as a young man in Florence "awoke my passion for volume and the sensuality of colour".

Fernando Botero was born in Medellin, Colombia's second city, in 1932, the son of a travelling salesman who died when he was four. He won a scholarship to a Jesuit school and showed a precocious talent for drawing, which he turned to good account by supplying illustrations to the local newspaper, El Colombiano. He held his first exhibition in Bogota, the capital, at the age of 19, with a collection of works that showed varying influences, from Paul Gauguin to the German Expressionists and the Mexican muralists Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco.

He returned again and again in his work to the memories of his youth: the bars, brothels and bullfights of provincial Medellin, "city of eternal spring", high in its Andean valley, where he had also learnt to paint in the open air, like the French Impressionists, in the hills surrounding the city. Much later he donated hundreds of his own and other works (Picasso, Monet, Renoir, Degas) to Medellin, where a square and an art gallery were named in his honour.

In 1952, the year after he moved to Bogota, Botero won a national artistic award and used the money to take a ship to Europe, at the age of 20. He enrolled at the Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid to study painting, but quickly concluded that Franco's Madrid was no place for an aspiring young painter. Botero moved on to Paris, where all the cutting-edge artists were, including Picasso. Yet he went in a different direction, becoming fascinated by classical, figurative painting, especially early Italian art.

What was meant to be a short trip to Florence in the summer of 1953 became a life-transforming experience: he decided to stay, to study the fresco painting techniques of the Renaissance masters, particularly Piero della Francesca. Botero spent almost four years in Europe, two of them in Florence, working on texture and technique, and laying the groundwork for his own style.

Over the years he repeatedly returned to the old masters, giving his own peculiar slant to their works. In his hands, Raphael's *Portrait of Pope Leo X* was transformed into a mournful, podgy-faced man-child, while the *Mona Lisa* was turned into a fleshy-faced 12-year-old girl, smiling obliquely and clutching a doll. Botero was fascinated by Velázquez and the lack of emotional charge in his work, executing more than ten versions of his *El Niño de Vallecas* alone. In 1986, in the ultimate homage, he depicted himself as a latter-day Velázquez, standing at his easel with a tiny, dwarf-like nude model at his feet.

His monumental, figurative paintings were at odds with the zeitgeist

Botero had returned to Colombia in 1955, but made little impact. The public found his European paintings too old-fashioned and for a while he was reduced to selling car tyres for a living. In 1957 he departed for Mexico, attracted by the fame of Frida Kahlo and the muralists. And although the politically inspired themes of the latter left him cold, the scale of their works did influence him. "A personality like Rivera . . . showed us young American painters the possibility of creating an art that need not be colonised by Europe. I was attracted by the mestizo quality, the mixture of old established and Spanish cultures," he said later.

He began to experiment with perspective and proportion, altering relative sizes of people and things, and changing the relationship between them and their background. Objects such as mandolins and oranges took on magical unreality in his paintings, while remaining recognisable.

He started to sell his paintings through dealers and galleries in Mexico, but his breakthrough came with his first solo exhibition in the US, in Washington in 1957. It transformed his status back home, and when he returned to Bogota in 1958 he was made professor of painting at the National University of Colombia. After another successful exhibition in Washington, in 1960, he settled in Greenwich Village, New York, the city of Lichtenstein and Warhol's first solo exhibitions.

Botero won a Guggenheim international award for his painting *Battle of the Arch-Devil* in 1961, and two years later his *Mona Lisa* was the only contemporary figurative painting bought by the New York Museum of Modern Art. It was exhibited in the foyer and made Botero's name with the city's artistic world overnight. He came to know all the leading figures of the New York abstract school such as Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.

Botero's monumental figurative paintings — still lifes, family portraits, churches, bishops — were radically at odds with the zeitgeist, but they slowly gained acceptance. He also enjoyed great success in Germany, where critics were intrigued by the "ironic brutality" of his boring provincials in suits and spectacles, his tiny fathers and massive babies. They speculated that his ubiquitous bulbous bishops might be a critical allusion to the overarching influence of the Catholic Church in modern Latin America. Yet Botero denied that his paintings were a satire on contemporary culture or politics: his *Official Portrait of the Military Junta* (1971) was no such thing, and a 1989 equestrian portrait called *The President and First Lady* bore no relation to any real persons, living or dead, but was a comical reworking of Velázquez's heroic portraits of Isabella of Bourbon and Philip IV of Spain in the Prado.

He settled in Paris in 1973 and, in his later years, some of his works did begin to acquire a more overtly "political" meaning. A series of watercolours and charcoal sketches depicted the terror and sudden death that beset his native country: a car bomb in the capital's colonial quarter, massacres of civilians by hired gunmen and his version of the death in 1993 of the drug baron Pablo Escobar, shot down in a hail of bullets on a rooftop in Medellin.

"I am against art that acts as a witness to the times in which it is produced and serves as a weapon," he once said, reflecting on the change in his artistic direction. "But, in view of the magnitude of the drama through which Colombia is living, there came a time when I felt a moral obligation to leave my own testimony on an irrational moment in our history."

Later he took up the universal theme of the degradation of the human spirit, and exhibited drawings and paintings of the torture of prisoners by US troops at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, and, in the process, returned to the expressionism of some of his early works.

Botero's first marriage to Gloria Zea (later to become director of the Colombian Institute of Culture) ended in divorce in 1960. He is survived by their three children: Fernando is a politician in Colombia; Lina an art curator and designer; and Juan Carlos a writer. In 1964 Botero married Cecilia Zambrano. Their son, Pedro, was killed in a road accident in Spain in 1974. The couple divorced a year later. He later married the Greek painter and sculptor Sophia Vari, who predeceased him in May.

From 1973 Botero produced large-scale sculptures, in bronze or marble, which explored the same questions of sensuousness as his paintings. Some of his massive pieces toured the world, with exhibitions on the Champs-Élysées and Park Avenue in the early Nineties. In 1999 they were accorded the singular honour of being exhibited alongside the works of Michelangelo and Cellini in Florence.

Fernando Botero, artist, was born on April 19, 1932. He died on September 15, 2023, aged 91

GETTY IMAGES









Botero in 2003 and, from top right, The President and the First Lady; Car Bomb; and In the Countryside, another example of his use of bloated, expressionless figures

Law Report

Council unlawfully disallowed disability-related expenditure

King's Bench Division
September 18, 2023
Rex (RW) v Windsor and Maidenhead royal borough council
Before Dexter Dias KC sitting as a deputy High Court judge
[2023] EWHC 1449 (Admin)
Judgment June 7, 2023

Group activities forming part of a disabled adult's care plan, namely attending a social and life skills support group to assist with grocery shopping, budgeting, cleaning and life activities, constituted "disability-related expenditure" for the purposes of the relevant legislation.

Dexter Dias KC sitting as a deputy High Court judge so held when allowing a claim for judicial review by the claimant, RW, challenging the lawfulness of a decision of the local authority, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Paragraph 4 of schedule 1 to the Care and Support (Charging and Assessment of Resources) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014 No 2672) provides, so far as relevant: " 'disability-related expenditure' includes payment for any community alarm system, costs of any privately arranged care services required including respite care, and the costs of any specialist items needed to meet the adult's disability."

Emma Foubister for the claimant; **Ben Mitchell** for the local authority.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the claimant had a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder that impacted many aspects of his life including his ability to travel on his own and live independently. The local authority funded his care and support through a direct payment to his mother, consisting of a "personal budget" which he could then choose how to spend.

As part of his care plan, the claimant attended a social and life skills group three times a week and had one-to-one sessions at his home to assist him with grocery shopping, budgeting, cleaning and life activities. In order to attend group sessions, he had to pay for the activities that were on offer each day.

The cost of attending the group was £80 plus VAT per day (the daily charge) which included staff costs and transportation to and from the activities. The claimant paid the daily charge out of his personal budget. However, the cost of the activities was "on top" and variable, but came out at approximately £15 per session. The claimant said the activity fees were reasonably incurred expenditure related to his disability. He was not able to attend the group without paying the activity fees — there was no group function without the activities. However, the local authority refused to classify the activities as disability-related expenditure. It said that the claimant had "chosen" those activities, which other people might choose to do anyway. Thus they were not disability-related. His need was for support from staff not the activities. There were cheaper ways for the claimant to have social interaction with a variety of other providers.

The sole issue for the court was whether the defendant had acted unlawfully in not treating the activity and associated costs as disability-related expenditure as defined in paragraph 4 of schedule 1 to the 2014 Regulations. The regulations were supplemented by policy guidance, issued pursuant to section 78 of the Care Act 2014, the Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

The local authority was correct that it was wrong to assume an activity was disability-related just because accessed through the group. An individual's care plan should be taken as a valuable starting point for determining what constituted disability-related expenditure. The claimant's care plan made it clear that: "[he] needs support to develop and maintain personal relationships." That need arose from the particular effects of his autism. He could not simply make or keep social relationships as most other people were able to do.

The reason that members of staff attended the activities was to facilitate the activities and support the participants in their interactions and ability to engage in the activities. That was a particularly important need that had to be addressed. It was a vital building block towards an independent life and disability-related expenditure needed for independent living was envisaged as "normally" being allowable under the local authority's charging policy.

Some of the activities, such as a bowling trip, might look like activities that non-disabled people might take part in at their own expense. However, that ignored the fact that the activities were designed and structured in such a way that would not be necessary for non-disabled people.

The group was part of the local authority's care plan for the claimant. Unquestionably there were activities that had been disallowed that were capable of being disability-related expenditure, and undoubtedly were, such as budgeting and travel training. Individual activities might be on one side or another of the line.

However, what was plain was that given the needs arising from the claimant's disability, a significant number of activities were capable of constituting disability-related expenditure. The approach of the local authority to blanket-disallow them as not disability-related was flawed.

The second issue was whether the costs were necessary and reasonably incurred. The local authority argued that there were cheaper alternatives that would not necessitate the activity payments. Thus the expenditure was not "necessary".

The word "necessary" was not in paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 to the 2014 Regulations, although the word "required" was, which was broadly synonymous with necessary. The word was, however, used in the statutory guidance.

On a principled approach to the word "necessary", it required: (i) identification of the needs arising out of the disability; and (ii) examination of whether the expenditure was needed to meet that need in the sense that it allowed the need to be met. It did not mean that the solution had to be the only way to meet the need or the only logically necessary one. Instead, it had to be closely connected to the need and operate to meet or help alleviate it, viewed fairly and objectively.

It was clear that the expenditure had to be reasonable and not extravagant or disproportionate to the need it addressed. It was not a requirement to relentlessly search for the cheapest possible way to meet the need and restrict oneself to that no matter what. It was about supporting people living with disability; a sense of proportion had to be applied.

The statutory guidance made it plain that while value for money was important (it was limited taxpayer money), the local authority should not lose sight of the principle that outcomes and decisions should not be made exclusively for financial reasons.

The statutory guidance made clear that the local authority had to look at the individual's life holistically and carefully examine the individual circumstances. In the present case the wrong approach had been taken and factors that were obviously relevant had not been considered. Undue emphasis had been placed on the question of cost without properly considering impact on the person living with disability who needed the support of the community.

On a proper analysis, the social and life skills group and its activities were necessary to help the claimant counteract his deficits arising from his disability. The costs were not excessive when compared with the overall annual budget. They were thus reasonable, especially when balanced against the emotional and personal cost of losing them and diverting to new service providers (plural) with the inevitable social anxiety that would produce in the claimant.

The local authority had made a public law error in its application of paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 to the 2014 Regulations in respect of disability-related expenditure which was central and material. Therefore, the decision would be quashed and the matter remitted to the local authority to consider afresh.

The purpose of disability-related expenditure was to support people living with disability counter and reduce the impact of deficits that affected their daily lives which a large majority of the population were fortunate enough not to suffer from. While the expenditure could not be limitless or open-ended and there had to be a logical connection to the need, once there was, the rules and guidance had to be interpreted not only broadly and reasonably but with a genuine and humane understanding of difficulties people living with disabilities faced.

The high legal obligation, deriving from international jurisprudence about the importance of autonomy for people with disabilities, was to put them at the centre of the decision-making: see Preamble (n) to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The power contained in the 2014 Regulations had as its existential purpose the reasonable and fair assessment of the ways that the community could support people living with disability.

Solicitors: **Leigh Day; Joint Legal Team, Reading borough council**.

Court Circular

Balmoral Castle
16th September, 2023
The King this morning opened the MacRobert Farming and Rural Skills Centre, Dumfries House Estate, Cumnock, Ayrshire, and was received by the Education Director of The Prince's Foundation (Ms Jacqueline Farrell).

His Majesty viewed the classrooms and met students and members of staff.

The King and Queen this afternoon attended St Leger Stakes Day at Doncaster Racecourse, St Leger Way, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Kensington Palace
16th September, 2023
The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Civil Service Sports Council, this afternoon attended the inaugural Women's Football Tournament at St George's Park, St George's Park National Football Centre, Newborough Road, Needwood, Burton-on-Trent, and was received by Mr Graham Morley (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire).

St James's Palace
17th September, 2023
The Duchess of Edinburgh, Patron, Wessex Cardiac Trust, this evening attended the Wessex Heartbeat Thirtieth Anniversary Variety Show at Mayflower Theatre, Commercial Road, Southampton, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mr Nigel Atkinson).

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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AND God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Thou shalt have no other gods before me" Exodus 20.1-3 (ESV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Deaths

HODGE CBE Ralph Noel. Engineer, former chief executive of ICI Petrochemicals and Chemicals & Polymers, and chairman of the Water Research Council. Died peacefully on 1st September in his 89th year, after a long illness borne with his usual determination. Much-loved and respected husband of Jean and father of David, Jackie, Ian and Andrea.

CHAMBERLAIN Colvin. Lt Col RA. Died 20th August, aged 85, after a short illness. Much-loved husband of Deborah and of the late Judith, father of Edward and Finetta, and grandfather. Family cremation. Thanksgiving services at 2pm on 14th October in St John's, Devizes, and at 2.30pm on 28th October in St Peter's, Maidford.

MAYNARD Frances (née Horne) died on 26th August 2023, aged 79. Funeral on 25th September. Details on request from AH Cheater Funeral Directors, 01794 331 134.

NUGENT (CANON) Alan Hubert died on 1st September 2023, aged 81. His funeral will take place at Lincoln Cathedral on the 26th September at 11am. Inquiries to Priestley & Cockett, 01522 520606.

PURSE Hugh Robert Leslie died in hospital on the 18th August 2023, his husband Karl at his side. A loving and much-loved and respected friend to many. A celebration of his life will be on Friday 29th September at 2pm at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, London, N2 0RZ. No flowers please — any donations to www.trusselltrust.org or www.sightsavers.org

WARREN Jillian died recently, aged 99. A dearly loved wife of the late Rev Henry Warren. The funeral service will take place at St Aldhelm & St Eadburga's Church, Broadway, on Thursday 12th October at 11am. Inquiries please to AJ Wakely & Sons, 01460 52576.

General Announcements

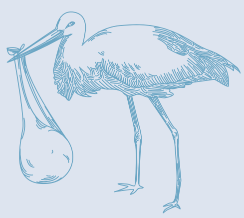
MR B. M. A. MARTELLI AND MISS A. M. A. KERR The engagement is announced between Barty, younger son of Mr and Mrs Amyas Martelli of Netherbury, Dorset, and Amabel, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Ralph Kerr of Melbourne, Derbyshire.

Birthdays

MR RAYMOND LEWIS JONES MBE (Dyffryn Ardudwy/Porthmadog) Penblwydd hapus yn 80! Happy 80th birthday! Love from all the family XXX

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To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion



Legal Notices

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Co Number: 06333575
JLT PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION LIMITED
Co Number: 02023198
MOOLA SYSTEMS LIMITED
Co Number: 09554266
SETTLEMENT TRUSTEES LIMITED
Co Number: 00527957
Principal Trading Address: (All) 1 Tower Place West, Tower Place, London, EC3R 5BU

Malcolm Cohen and Stacey Brown of BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Companies on 7 September 2023. Creditors of the Companies are required, on or before the 19 October 2023 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators, and, if so required by notice, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice. Note: Please note that this is a solvent liquidation. The directors of the Companies have made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full.

Further details contact: Pauline Durrant, Tel: 020 7486 588 or Email: Pauline.Durrant@bdo.co.uk
Malcolm Cohen, Joint Liquidator
13 September 2023

AON GLOBAL HOLDINGS 1 LIMITED
Company Number: 11061460
AON GLOBAL HOLDINGS 2 LIMITED
Company Number: 11041195
INTERNATIONAL SPACE BROKERS LIMITED
Company Number: 01891821
INTERNATIONAL SPACE BROKERS EUROPE LIMITED
Commpany Number: 00716928
Principal Trading Address: (All) C/o BDO LLP, 5 Temple Square, Temple Street, Liverpool, L2 5RH

Malcolm Cohen and Matthew Chadwick of BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Companies on 7 September 2023. Creditors of the Companies are required, on or before the 19 October 2023 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators, and, if so required by notice, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice. Note: Please note that this is a solvent liquidation. The directors of the Companies have made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full.

Further details contact: Pauline Durrant, Tel: 020 7486 588 or Email: Pauline.Durrant@bdo.co.uk
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'He'll be shouting for Ireland in the rugby but England in the cricket'

CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY

THE TIMES

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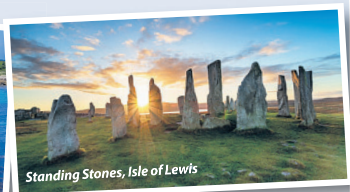
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Highland Cow



Isles of Scilly, Cornwall



Standing Stones, Isle of Lewis

12 NIGHTS DEPARTING 14TH & 26TH APRIL, 8TH & 20TH MAY AND 1ST JUNE 2024

Day 1 **Embark *MS Maud* and depart Dover for your 12 night No-Fly Expedition of the British Isles**

Day 2 **Relaxing at sea**
Enjoy an idyllic day at sea with plenty to do. Admire the views from ***MS Maud's*** Observation Deck or visit the Science Center for insights into the island destinations ahead Photography enthusiasts can pick up some pointers from our on board photographer on how to capture wildlife and landscapes

Day 3 **Fishguard, Wales**
A short drive away is the UK's smallest city, St. Davids. More a village than a city, it owes its city status to its 12th century Cathedral. You can explore this conservation area as part of an included excursion

Day 4 **Belfast, Northern Island**
Sail in to Belfast, a city with a proud seafaring history and the birthplace of the Titanic. History buffs will enjoy Ulstere Museum and the Belfast Castle, while nature lovers can visit the Botanic Garden

Day 5 **Castlebay, Outer Hebrides, Scotland**
★Captain's Choice★
Today, the Captain and the Expedition Team will decide whether to explore Barra or Vatersay, the two most southerly inhabited islands of the Outer Hebrides, linked to each other by a causeway. Go in search of birds and sea life in expedition boats or attempt to land in the innumerable coves and beaches that dot the island close to Castlebay

Day 6 **Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland**
Visit the regal St. Magnus Cathedral, made from distinctive local red sandstone, and the adjacent Earl's Palace to see the stone ruins of this once grand Renaissance building, The Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae is also only a bus ride away

Day 7 **Stornoway, Isle of Lewis**
As you explore the area around the harbour, keep an eye out for seals, eagles and otters. Enjoy a visit to the Gothicstyle Lews Castle with its spacious grounds full of trails and offering fantastic views

Day 8 **Islay, Scotland**
Offering a diverse landscape, together with ancient Celtic ruins, Islay is a stop-over for migrating birds, making it ideal for seabird spotting along its many superb cliff top walk

Day 9 **Douglas, Isles of Man**
The scenic approach to Douglas is not to be missed! Head ashore to explore the capital of the Isle of Man. Learn about the island's Celtic and Viking heritage, trace its development as a Victorian tourist resort, and see its stunning rugged coastline

Day 10 **Waterford, Ireland**
Visit the nearby 12th century Kilkenny Castle, stroll through quaint villages and charming hamlet towns nearby or take in the beautiful surrounding scenery

Day 11 **Isles of Scilly, England**
Today, join one of the optional excursions× for a trip around the islands, visiting shipwreck sites, spotting seals basking on the rocks and cruising around the bird sanctuary of Annet to observe the puffins and numerous other breeding seabirds

Day 12 **Dartmouth, Devon**
The picturesque banks of the River Dart mark your arrival into beautiful Dartmouth. Steeped in maritime history and culture, this charming town is home to the Royal Britannia Naval College and Dartmouth Castle. Tread the coastal paths and trails that extend along this stretch of coastline, exploring secluded coves and remote beaches

Day 13 **Arrive in Dover**

Port itinerary order is subject to change and may differ based on departure date

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  - Tea and coffee included throughout the day
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Weather

Today A band of showery rain will spread eastwards leaving sunny spells and showers. Max 22C (72F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	14	C	0.0	2.0
Aberporth	17	R	10.2	0.0
Anglesey	16	C	8.4	4.3
Aviemore	12	C	0.2	0.8
Barnstaple	18	C	14.2	**
Bedford	20	C	0.4	**
Belfast	15	R	4.8	0.0
Birmingham	20	C	0.0	**
Bournemouth	18	C	24.0	0.2
Bridlington	18	S	0.6	**
Bristol	17	C	11.6	0.0
Camborne	17	C	9.4	1.2
Cardiff	16	R	32.2	0.0
Edinburgh	14	C	0.4	1.2
Eskdalemuir	13	C	0.6	0.0
Glasgow	13	R	1.6	4.7
Hereford	17	C	2.0	**
Herstmonceux	19	C	3.6	6.2
Ipswich	18	C	0.0	8.2
Isle of Man	16	C	6.4	0.3
Isle of Wight	19	R	30.2	**
Jersey	20	S	0.0	0.2
Keswick	15	R	0.2	**
Kinloss	15	PC	0.0	4.8
Leeds	15	M	0.2	**
Lerwick	13	C	0.0	3.8
Leuchars	13	R	0.2	3.2
Lincoln	19	B	0.0	3.8
Liverpool	18	D	1.2	**
London	23	C	8.4	6.8
Lyneham	18	B	8.0	0.2
Manchester	19	C	0.0	1.3
Margate	19	C	0.0	6.5
Milford Haven	16	C	22.2	**
Newcastle	15	C	1.0	**
Nottingham	18	C	0.0	1.8
Orkney	14	PC	0.0	9.3
Oxford	20	B	3.2	**
Plymouth	16	C	24.0	**
Portland	18	M	8.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	17	**	7.0	**
Shoreham	20	C	3.0	8.6
Shrewsbury	18	C	0.2	0.0
Snowdonia	15	R	7.6	**
Southend	19	C	0.0	6.4
South Uist	13	C	0.4	**
Stornoway	14	C	0.0	5.2
Tiree	12	C	8.8	11.0
Whitehaven	15	C	0.0	0.0
Wick	13	C	0.0	**
Yeovilton	17	PC	17.8	0.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	29	S	Madeira	23	PC
Amsterdam	18	C	Madrid	15	D
Athens	27	S	Malaga	28	PC
Auckland	17	PC	Mallorca	32	S
Bahrain	37	S	Malta	30	S
Bangkok	32	PC	Melbourne	23	S
Barbados	32	PC	Mexico City	25	B
Barcelona	27	S	Miami	26	T
Beijing	27	S	Milan	25	PC
Beirut	29	S	Mombasa	30	PC
Belgrade	27	B	Montreal	22	B
Berlin	27	S	Moscow	15	PC
Bermuda	28	SH	Mumbai	27	SH
Bordeaux	26	S	Munich	25	S
Brussels	23	PC	Nairobi	27	PC
Bucharest	25	B	Naples	30	S
Budapest	27	PC	New Orleans	33	S
Buenos Aires	23	S	New York	23	B
Cairo	32	S	Nice	26	PC
Calcutta	34	**	Nicosia	32	S
Canberra	23	S	Oslo	12	PC
Cape Town	17	PC	Paris	24	S
Chicago	20	R	Perth	18	PC
Copenhagen	22	PC	Prague	24	PC
Corfu	30	PC	Reykjavik	10	B
Delhi	31	**	Riga	19	S
Dubai	38	PC	Rio de Janeiro	25	S
Dublin	15	R	Riyadh	40	S
Faro	23	PC	Rome	29	S
Florence	29	PC	San Francisco	22	B
Frankfurt	28	S	Santiago	18	PC
Geneva	24	PC	São Paulo	24	S
Gibraltar	21	SH	Seoul	26	B
Helsinki	13	PC	Seychelles	25	SH
Hong Kong	32	PC	Singapore	31	PC
Honolulu	32	PC	St Petersburg	18	S
Istanbul	28	PC	Stockholm	12	PC
Jerusalem	30	PC	Sydney	31	S
Johannesburg	22	S	Tel Aviv	30	PC
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tenerife	28	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	32	PC
Lanzarote	29	PC	Vancouver	21	PC
Las Palmas	26	B	Venice	25	PC
Lima	19	PC	Vienna	26	PC
Lisbon	20	PC	Warsaw	23	S
Los Angeles	21	DU	Washington	26	S
Luxor	35	S	Zurich	25	S

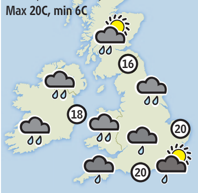
Five days ahead

Unsettled with showers or longer spells of rain, heaviest tomorrow and Wednesday

Tomorrow

Sunny intervals with a few showers for the far southeast of England and northern Scotland. Cloudy elsewhere with spells of heavy rain.

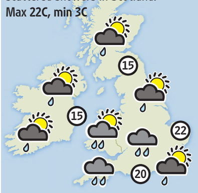
Max 20C, min 6C



Wednesday

Spells of heavy rain will spread southeastwards across Ireland, Wales and England. Sunny spells and scattered showers in Scotland.

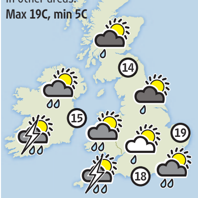
Max 22C, min 3C



Thursday

Spells of heavy rain will slowly clear southeast England. Sunny periods and scattered heavy and thundery showers in other areas.

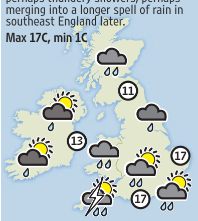
Max 19C, min 5C



Friday

Sunny periods and scattered heavy and perhaps thundery showers, perhaps merging into a longer spell of rain in southeast England later.

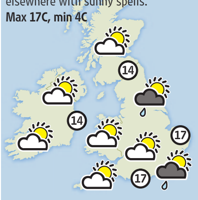
Max 17C, min 1C



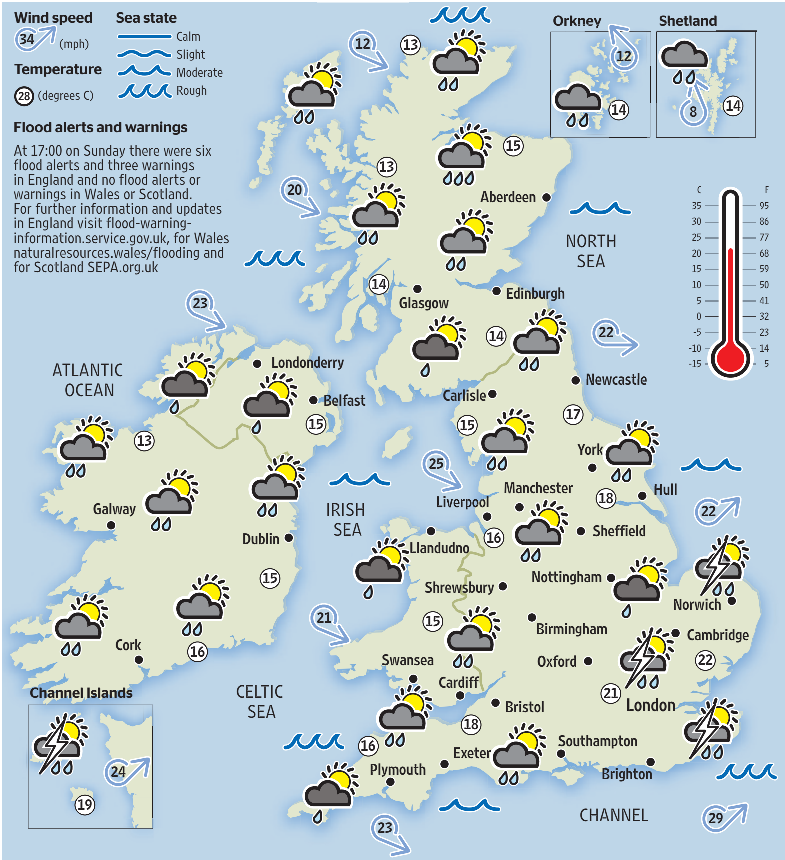
Saturday

Sunny spells with the chance of a few light showers in eastern Scotland and eastern England. Largely dry elsewhere with sunny spells.

Max 17C, min 4C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest



Flood alerts and warnings

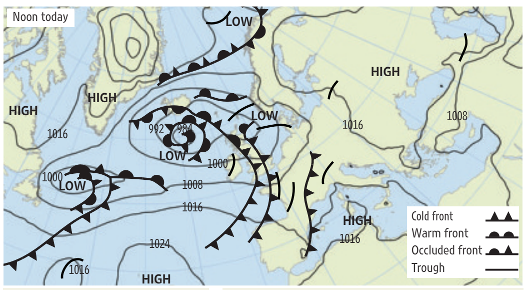
At 17:00 on Sunday there were six flood alerts and three warnings in England and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Showery rain spreading eastwards across the British Isles. Sunshine and scattered heavy showers in the west later.
London, SE Eng, E Anglia, Channel Is: Sunny periods with chance of a few heavy showers in the morning. Showery rain, perhaps thundery at times, will spread eastwards across all areas in the afternoon. Moderate to fresh southwesterly winds veering westerly later. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 10C (50F).
Mids, Cen S Eng, SW Eng, Lake Disrict, Wales, E Eng, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, NE Eng, IoM: Showery rain will spread eastwards through the morning and early afternoon. After it clears there will be sunny spells and a few showers. Moderate to fresh west or southwesterly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 7C (45F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Sunny spells and scattered heavy showers. Fresh westerly winds. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 7C (45F).
Cen Highland, NW Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, N Isles, NE Scotland: A cloudy morning with spells of rain, turning brighter in mainland Scotland through the afternoon. Fresh westerly winds. Maximum 16C (61F), minimum 3C (37F).
Borders, SW Scotland, Argyll, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee: Rain through the morning, brighter with scattered showers later. Fresh westerly winds. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 6C (43F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	03:46	4.3	16:10	4.1
Avonmouth	09:58	12.2	22:08	12.3
Belfast	01:19	3.5	13:34	3.2
Cardiff	09:40	11.6	21:52	11.7
Devonport	08:33	5.2	20:41	5.2
Dover	01:23	6.4	13:37	6.6
Dublin	01:43	4.0	14:05	3.8
Falmouth	08:01	4.9	20:04	5.0
Greenock	02:48	3.5	15:22	3.2
Harwich	02:17	3.8	14:23	3.8
Holyhead	--:--	--	12:59	5.3
Hull	08:50	7.3	21:16	7.2
Leith	05:10	5.4	17:31	5.3
Liverpool	01:28	9.1	13:46	8.9
London Bridge	04:26	6.8	16:41	6.9
Lowestoft	--:--	--	12:06	2.6
Milford Haven	08:49	6.7	21:02	6.8
Morecambe	01:38	9.2	13:56	8.9
Newhaven	01:29	6.5	13:47	6.6
Newquay	07:40	6.7	19:53	6.8
Oban	08:19	3.8	20:25	3.9
Penzance	07:13	5.3	19:26	5.4
Portsmouth	01:53	4.5	14:17	4.5
Shoreham	01:33	6.0	13:50	6.1
Southampton	00:58	4.4	13:44	4.5
Swansea	08:59	9.0	21:08	9.0
Tees	06:06	5.4	18:33	5.3
Weymouth	09:38	2.0	21:41	2.0



Synoptic situation

A cold front will spread eastwards across England and Wales bringing a band of showery rain, perhaps thundery at times. A series of fronts will spread northeastwards across Scotland bringing spells of rain, heavy in the Northern Isles and eastern Scotland. Troughs will bring scattered showers to Ireland throughout the day and mainland Scotland later on.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Jersey, 22.7C
Coldest: Loch Glascarnoch, Ross and Cromarty, -0.9C
Wettest: Exeter Airport, Devon, 65.2mm
Sunniest: Tiree, 11.0hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.39
Sun sets: 19.08
Moon rises: 10.19
Moon sets: 20.09
First Quarter: September 22

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	19:50-06:17
Belfast	20:04-06:33
Birmingham	19:47-06:18
Cardiff	19:51-06:23
Exeter	19:52-06:25
Glasgow	19:58-06:26
Liverpool	19:51-06:22
London	19:39-06:11
Manchester	19:48-06:19
Newcastle	19:47-06:16
Norwich	19:34-06:05
Penzance	20:00-06:33
Sheffield	19:45-06:16

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



Could this month become the warmest September on record? The exceptional heatwave featured temperatures of 30C or more for a September record of seven days in a row, and the Met Office recently revealed that temperatures peaked at 33.5C on September 10 at Brogdale, Kent. Northern Ireland broke its September record with 28C at Castlederg in Co Tyrone on September 8. The nights were also exceptionally warm, with a minimum of 20.5C at Plymouth on the night of September 5. It qualified as a tropical night, meaning that the temperature remained above 20C all night — unusual in the summer but extraordinary for September. And although the heatwave subsided, much of the southern half of the UK remained warm and this weekend temperatures reached 28C before thundery downpours broke out.

Perhaps the heat in the first half of September went some way to making up for what seemed a dismal summer. However, the summer was not all bad and June was exceptional, the warmest on record and the fourth sunniest. But as the schools broke up for the holidays, the abiding memory was the washout in July, the sixth wettest July on record. August also felt disappointing, although the month's overall temperature and rainfall were about average.

As for the rest of September, temperatures have subsided and low pressure has brought the return of thundery downpours. Expect further outbreaks of rain and wind this week, with the remains of an old hurricane adding to the turbulence.

Hurricane Lee was powerful at one stage but was no longer a tropical storm when it hit Nova Scotia, eastern Canada, on Saturday. The remnants are swinging across the pond and will merge with an ordinary Atlantic depression, packing quite a punch in Britain with winds and rain until about the middle of the week. Although it will probably stay unsettled until October, this may yet be the warmest September on record.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

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TM-PA-0623-FP

Sport

Evans comes to the rescue for Britain

Stuart Fraser



Tennis Correspondent

Almost a year after threatening to quit the Davis Cup in protest at his non-selection for doubles, Dan Evans produced a Herculean effort in Manchester by winning two matches in one day to seal Great Britain's place in November's finals.

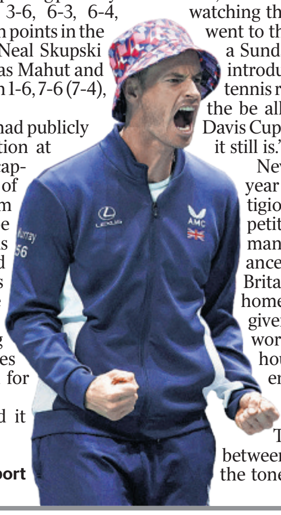
Inspired by a Davis Cup record crowd of 13,000 on British soil, the 33-year-old stepped up at the AO Arena to help his team to defeat France 2-1 in the group stages. He claimed the opening point by defeating Arthur Fils 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, before saving four match points in the deciding doubles with Neal Skupski to prevail against Nicolas Mahut and Édouard Roger-Vasselin 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (8-6).

Last October, Evans had publicly made clear his frustration at not being selected by captain Leon Smith ahead of the six-times grand-slam doubles champion Joe Salisbury, claiming it was "f***ing annoying" and "a bit insulting". He has walked the walk since after being given the nod by Smith, winning three of the four doubles matches he has played for Britain this year.

"I'm not glad he did it [spoke publicly], he knows that," Smith said. "But I like when he said it to me. You can't get every decision right as captain, I don't admit that I do. What's important is how we've come together. Me and Evo had good chats about it. I've always known that they are a good pair. Me and Evo are great and the team spirit is brilliant."

Evans has become a stalwart in this competition. He is only the fourth British player in Davis Cup history to contest 25 ties, joining Andy Murray, Mike Sangster and Bobby Wilson. It is somewhat fitting given that it was a series of matches in his hometown of Birmingham in the late 1990s and early 2000s that provided the inspirational spark for his career.

"Davis Cup is why I played tennis at the start," Evans said. "I remember watching the Birmingham ties. I went to them, finishing late on a Sunday. That was my first introduction to professional tennis really. For me that was the be all and end all to play Davis Cup for your country, and it still is."



Murray, not selected yesterday, roars in support

Never before in the 123-year history of this prestigious men's team competition had there been so many people in attendance to witness the Great Britain team in action at home. They were certainly given their money's worth with close to nine hours of action on an enthralling final day of action in the round-robin event.

The opening match between Evans and Fils set the tone for the day with an entertaining battle. Leading by a set and a break at 3-1 in the second, Fils, 19, was on the verge of an impressive victory in the face of a partisan crowd. But then came a sudden collapse as he played a dreadful service game to hand the break back, with Evans starting to use the energy from the stands to his advantage. After levelling the match at one set all, Evans claimed what proved to be a pivotal early break in the decider.

Cameron Norrie's poor run of form continued in the second singles. The British No 1, ranked No 17 in the world, lost for the seventh time in his past nine matches with a 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 7-5 defeat by Ugo Humbert, the world No 36.

The tension was evident in a tight doubles contest when Evans exchanged words with Fils, who was sitting courtside. But he maintained his composure when it mattered most for a famous victory, saving three consecutive match points on his serve at 5-4 down in the third set and another in the tie-break before falling to the court with joy after he and Skupski converted their second match point.

JASON CAIRNDUFF/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS



Evans, right, and Skupski saved four match points to win a nail-biting deciding match in the tie against France to book Britain's place in the Davis Cup finals

The Davis Cup finals

The eight-team finals event takes place in Malaga, Spain, from November 21-26

● Competing teams: Australia, Canada, Czechia, Finland, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Serbia

● The quarter-final draw takes place tomorrow at 11am

Tsegay breaks 5,000m world record in Eugene

Athletics Ethiopia's 10,000m world champion Gudaf Tsegay shattered the women's 5,000m world record yesterday, winning the Diamond League finals in Eugene, Oregon in 14mins 00.21secs. The 26-year-old shaved almost five seconds off the previous record set by Kenyan Faith Kipyegon in Paris in June.

Keely Hodgkinson broke her own British record as she finished second in the 800m. The 21-year-old clocked a time of 1:55.19, crossing 0.16secs behind American Athing Mu, who she had beaten into third at last month's World Championships in Budapest. Hodgkinson took 0.58secs off her previous best.

Sweden's Armand Duplantis broke his own pole vault world record with a leap of 6.23m.

Sri Lanka skittled for 50

Cricket The India seam bowler Mohammed Siraj claimed career-best figures of six for 21 while the all-rounder Hardik Pandya took three wickets to bowl out Sri Lanka for just 50 in the final of the Asia Cup yesterday.

It was the lowest total in an ODI final and Sri Lanka's second-lowest total after their 43 all out against South Africa in 2011. India knocked off the runs without loss in just 6.1 overs in Colombo. Siraj's burst included four wickets in one over, with five Sri Lanka bastmen out for ducks.

O'Sullivan claims title

Snooker Ronnie O'Sullivan beat Luca Brecel 11-9 to win his fourth straight Shanghai Masters title. O'Sullivan saw off the world champion, who beat him at the Crucible in April, for his 18th consecutive Shanghai match win.

"I'll be giving the trophy to my friend who is opening up a club here. It will be staying in China," O'Sullivan said. "I'm not really bothered about trophies. I don't want any memorabilia left by the time I'm 70 or 80. I'm preparing for death – part of that is I don't want snooker stuff – it's all going."



Fox holds his nerve to deny Europe's stars

Rick Broadbent

It is only a couple of months since Ryan Fox said he was "sick of golf" and he cut an emotional figure as he reflected on "a difficult year" and the biggest win of his career at the BMW PGA Championship.

With so much attention being focused on the form of Ryder Cup players, on both sides of the Atlantic, it was perhaps typical of golf's capacity for unscripted drama that a New Zealander should triumph at Wentworth on Sunday. He deserved it — but it was never comfortable. Having started the day three shots behind the leader Ludvig Aberg, he saw his drive on the 3rd arc out of bounds on his way to a triple bogey seven. At that point he was 400-1 to win and admitted he thought he was "out of the tournament".

Instead of imploding, he exploded into renewed life, making eight birdies including six on the back nine. With the English duo of Tyrrell Hatton and Aaron Rai getting to 17 under par, Fox, the son of All Blacks' Rugby World Cup winner Grant, needed to hole a six-foot putt to win after laying up on the par-five 18th. Six feet can appear a long and winding road in such circumstances, but he nailed it, punched the air and won by one shot after a round of five-under-par 67 saw him finish on 18 under. Aberg had long since faded after finally encountering some fallibility to end a remarkable run, but another top-ten finish and a reality check constitutes decent preparation for the rookie's Ryder Cup to come in Italy.

Given that Fox contracted pneumonia this year, grew tired of travel and took all of August off, this was some comeback. Watched by his wife and new daughter, he said: "We have been through a pretty tough year as a family. Both my mother and father-in-law were diagnosed with cancer, and I lost my father-in-law in June after a really short battle. That rocked the whole family. It's been tough going back and forth, but to have No 2 with us, little Margot who is four months old, is very special."

Leading final scores

● Europe Ryder Cup players in blue
Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

270 R Fox (NZ) 69, 68, 66, 67
271 **T Hatton 68, 69, 68, 66**
A Rai 69, 67, 67, 68
272 **J Rahm (Sp) 71, 67, 66, 68**
273 **V Hovland (Nor) 69, 70, 67, 67**
274 **T Fleetwood 69, 66, 67, 72**
275 **R McIlroy 72, 71, 67, 65**
C Shinkwin 68, 71, 64, 72
A Scott (Aus) 71, 69, 67, 68
276 **L Aberg (Swe) 68, 66, 66, 76**
S Straka (Austria) 70, 66, 69, 71
C Syme 67, 70, 65, 74
H Du Plessis (SA) 72, 71, 64, 69
Other Europe players: **278** S Lowry 69, 71, 67, 71; M Fitzpatrick 66, 72, 71, 69.
283 J Rose 72, 71, 68, 72.
284 R MacIntyre 72, 69, 73, 70.
288 N Hoejgaard (Den) 76, 67, 73, 72.

The Ryder Cup charge was long, strong and ultimately flawed, but Luke Donald, the Europe captain, was delighted that seven of his team made the top ten.

Hatton was the pick, despite driving out of bounds on the 15th, but the rain had started to come down at that point and he said he wouldn't be losing sleep over the error. The threat of lightning then led to an 82-minute delay, with Fox a stroke behind Hatton. At one point Hatton's lead was four shots, but he still led the way for Donald's Rome-bound team. Other big guns have fired too. Jon Rahm was fourth, one shot behind, with Viktor Hovland and Tommy Fleetwood, who had a disappointing day but a good week, next in line in fifth and sixth place respectively.



ROSS KINNAIRD/GETTY IMAGES



New Zealander Fox celebrates his winning putt on the 18th, as a number of Ryder Cup stars including McIlroy, inset, fell just short

11
Days until the start of the Ryder Cup, a week on Friday in Rome

Rory McIlroy had scraped into the weekend in the dark on Friday, but he made good use of the opportunity and conjured the best round of the day, a 65, to share seventh place on 13 under.

For much of this week Hatton's facial expressions have given the impression that he has been a victim of serial injustice. It shows the high expectations, but he chuntered his way into contention. Five off the top in the morning, hope blossomed as Aberg stuttered badly after three days of serene progress. There was a near hole-in-one, with his ball hitting the flag and somehow staying out, and he did hole a chip out of a bunker on the 6th during a run of five birdies in seven holes.

This was a very different sort of test for the wilting Aberg. He had said Wentworth is a simple course and backed up that assessment until yesterday. Two shots clear of Fleetwood and Connor Syme at the start, a dropped shot after a poor approach started the rot on the 1st. Two doubles followed. Short putts were missed and the radar cut out.

His round of 76 contrasted with one of McIlroy's Sunday jaunts. He had cut an exasperated figure on Friday night, as groups queued on the 18th tee and play finished in near darkness. He dubbed that a 'shit show' but followed Saturday's 67 with a 65 and briefly exhumed small hopes that he could even win. Failure to capitalise on the closing two par-fives put paid to that, and resulted in him smashing a wedge into the turf. "The 17th has been my nemesis hole over the years," he said. "I've never felt comfortable with that second shot. It was sort of more frustration with the lie. It was an awkward shot, so it was more frustration at that."

At least he can head off to his friend's stag do in Mykonos with no Wentworth hangover. "If I had gone home on Friday, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to feel better about my game," he said.

Meanwhile, in the United States, Justin Thomas has refound his form at the Fortinet Championship. The countdown is under way and if anyone viewed Fox as raining on Europe's Ryder Cup parade, he signed off with a pledge of allegiance. "I'll be fully supporting them," he said.

Roy was one of the best but Brook boosts England

Mike Atherton



Chief Cricket Correspondent

When a mistake has been made, better to correct it than defend it stubbornly — especially with a World Cup at stake. So it is that Harry Brook, the wunderkid from Yorkshire, will be at the tournament in India after all, following a change by the selectors to the previously announced 15-man squad. Jason Roy misses out.

Roy had been picked in the provisional squad, announced on August 16, which, according to the national selector, Luke Wright, was intended to be the final squad to go to India.

With Ben Stokes having reversed his retirement, there was no place for Brook originally, Wright having described Brook's omission as "as hard a decision as you're ever going to get."

What has happened to change their mind? Initially, there was immediate confirmation from Brook of his outstanding talent, when he smashed 105 in 42 balls, including seven sixes, for the Northern Superchargers against Welsh Fire six days after that announcement.

Two eye-catching half-centuries followed in the T20 series against New Zealand, although his returns were thinner in the 50-over series after that.

Added to that, were concerns about Roy's fitness. Now 33, Roy was unavailable for any of the ODIs against New Zealand, suffering from a series of back spasms. These are notoriously difficult to overcome (and predict when they will return) and the World Cup schedule would be demanding for anyone with back concerns. There will be a constant diet of air travel with which to contend.

Dawid Malan's outstanding recent form also cemented his position as a first-choice pick at the top of the order alongside Jonny Bairstow. Malan made scores of 54, 96 and 127 in the four-match ODI series against New Zealand, meaning that, in the last 12 months, he has scored four ODI hundreds, averaging a little more than 66. Roy or no Roy, Malan deserves his spot at the top of the order for the start of the World Cup.

So the choice for the selectors was between an injury-hit Roy, to act as a back-up at the top of the order, or Brook, a young player on the rise, who can give principal cover for the middle order in a team where other options, such as Joe Root, could provide cover at the top as well. By selecting Brook, they have improved England's chances of defending their crown.

It is a decision that is likely to hurry along an end to Roy's international career, given that he lost his full central contract last summer and has designs on a franchise future. This summer, he played in Major League Cricket in America during the English summer and was required to terminate his increment contract to travel there.

Roy will go down as one of England's best ever one-day players, a belligerent and fearless ball-striker who made 12 hundreds in 116 ODIs — third only behind Root and Eoin Morgan — and a key member of England's World Cup winning side in 2019. Roy was central to the revitalisation of England's one-day cricket under Morgan, but time moves on, and in Brook England possess a star of the future. They have made the right call.

England's squad for the World Cup
Jos Buttler (Lancashire, capt), **Moeen Ali** (Warwickshire), **Gus Atkinson** (Surrey), **Jonny Bairstow** (Yorkshire), **Harry Brook** (Yorkshire), **Sam Curran** (Surrey), **Liam Livingstone** (Lancashire), **Dawid Malan** (Yorkshire), **Adil Rashid** (Yorkshire), **Joe Root** (Yorkshire), **Ben Stokes** (Durham), **Reece Topley** (Surrey), **David Willey** (Northamptonshire), **Mark Wood** (Durham), **Chris Woakes** (Warwickshire)

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Archer likely to travel with squad

Brook could still force his way in to the squad. Despite scoring only 37 runs in three innings in the four-match ODI series, England feel that he is a better option.

Roy has not played at all for three weeks and has had a quiet summer. His highest score in the Hundred was 28 and his highest score in 24 innings dating back to March is 61.

England are yet to confirm whether they are taking any travelling reserves with them — they are allowed up to three players to travel in case of injury — but it is unlikely that Roy will be one of them and that those spots will be for reserve bowlers.

Jofra Archer is likely to travel to India to continue his rehabilitation from the recurrence of a stress fracture in his elbow. However, there are no guarantees he will be fully fit even at the back end of the tournament and he could only come into the squad in the event of an injury to another bowler.

Continuous an Arc possible

Rob Wright Racing Editor

Continuous, who was an easy winner of the St Leger at Doncaster on Saturday, is a best-priced 12-1 with William Hill to end his season with victory in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp on October 1.

Trained by Aidan O'Brien, who was landing the final classic of the season for a seventh time, Continuous has improved markedly on his past two starts.

"It's very special. A lot of people do a lot of work with this horse very day," O'Brien said. "The Arc is a possibility, the lads will decide those things like they always do. They'll speak to Ryan [Moore, his jockey] but he has a lot of class this horse, he does stay and does handle soft ground.

"There's every chance he could. He's a hardy horse. He's had a strong, hard programme early so he might back up in two weeks. The lads will decide that but I'd say there's definitely a chance."

Frankie Dettori, who is retiring at the end of the year, could only finish second in his final St Leger on board Arrest but continued his farewell tour with a trip to Sweden yesterday.

The Italian was unplaced in the featured Stockholm Cup on board Hard One To Please but he did manage a listed-race victory on Takeko.

Thirsk

Rob Wright

1.50 Churchella
2.20 Amazing Winnie
2.55 Marie's Secret
3.30 Zabriskie Point (nb)
4.05 Captain Dandy
4.40 Candy Eye
5.15 Measured Moments
5.50 Ey Up Its Jazz

Going: good to soft, soft in places

Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best — **Racing TV**

1.50 Handicap (£3,664: 1m 4f) (15 runners)

1	(12)	04310	**ODD VENTURE** 28 (D) M Hammond 6-9-9	**A Brookes (3)**
2	(5)	/303-	**FOSHAN** 466 (P) A Nicol 4-9-9	**C Planas**
3	(10)	16633	**BLAZER TWO** 35 (P,D) L Russell 5-9-9	**C Hutchinson**
4	(15)	04322	**IT'S HOW WE ROLL** 14 (B,D) H Evans 9-9-9	**A Jary (5)**
5	(8)	26615	**VISITANT** 23 (P,D) D Thompson 10-9-6	**S B Kirrane**
6	(13)	05114	**GHOSTLY** 17 (CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-6	**C Howarth (3)**
7	(7)	60046	**KELLS** 21 (P,T) I Jardine 6-9-5	**W Pyle (5)**
8	(14)	20352	**CHURCHELLA** 12 (V) D O'Meara 3-9-4	**M Winn**
9	(6)	34602	**TIBERIO FORCE** 6 (B) Simon Whitaker 4-9-4	**B Sanderson**
10	(1)	-6055	**THOMAS CRANMER** 10 Miss T Jackson 9-9-3	**O Stammers**
11	(11)	46405	**FOURSOME** 16 Olly Williams 4-9-3	**Mia Nicholls (5)**
12	(2)	53000	**SKEDADDLED** 21 (P) R Barr 5-9-3	**J Peate**
13	(9)	56045	**GOODISON GIRL** 17 E De Giles 4-9-3	**B Wilkie (5)**
14	(4)	63322	**PFINGSTBERG** 42 (BF) D M Simcock 3-9-2	**G Bass**
15	(3)	06234	**LUKLA** 13 P Midgley 3-9-0	**R Sexton**

9-2 Pfingstberg, 11-2 It's How We Roll, 6-1 Ghostly, 15-2 Tiberio Force, Churchella, 10-1 Blazer Two, 12-1 Visitant, Lukla.

Rob Wright's choice: Churchella improved when fitted with a visor at Southwell **Dangers:** Tiberio Force, Ghostly

2.20 Nursery (Div I: 2-Y-O: £3,664: 6f) (9)

1	(9)	0465	**MECCA'S DUCHESS** 32 M Dods 9-11	**C Beasley**
2	(5)	400	**SALAMANCA LAD** 10 R Fahey 9-8	**Oisin Orr**
3	(6)	6300	**AMAZING WINNIE** 9 (B) K Ryan 9-7	**T Eaves**
4	(2)	04021	**MACARONE** 32 Craig Lidster 9-6	**S James**
5	(7)	455	**DINGWALL** 49 I Jardine 9-5	**A Mullen**
6	(4)	41560	**PROFITABLE DREAMS** 9 (P) J Bedi 9-2	**JP Sullivan**
7	(8)	0562	**FOREVER EIGHTEEN** 7 N Tinkler 9-0	**R Scott**
8	(1)	000	**UWAITTILLPLAYTIME** 23 D Carroll 8-12	**Z Wheatley (5)**
9	(3)	60006	**PEACEFUL PROTEST** 18 (B) T Easterby 8-11	**D Allan**

2-1 Forever Eighteen, 9-4 Macarone, 13-2 Salamanca Lad, 10-1 Mecca's Duchess, 12-1 Uwaittillplaytime, Dingwall, 14-1 others.

Wright choice: Amazing Winnie drops in trip after failing to stay a mile here **Dangers:** Macarone, Salamanca Lad

2.55 Nursery (Div II: 2-Y-O: £3,664: 6f) (9)

1	(6)	362	**LADY AVA** 69 (P) E Dunlop 9-9	**W Buick**
2	(7)	40031	**CRACK THE KODE** 28 (D) K Ryan 9-8	**T Eaves**
3	(1)	5303	**MARIE'S SECRET** 41 (BF) Adrian Nicholls 9-7	**C Murtagh**
4	(3)	5165	**CELESTIAL FLIGHT** 45 (D) O Pears 9-7	**C Howarth (5)**
5	(5)	4466	**JUSTAHUNCH** 28 Darryll Holland 9-3	**P J McDonald**
6	(4)	000	**RED IRIS** 33 T Easterby 9-1	**S B Kirrane**
7	(9)	006	**CURIOUS MRS FOX** 17 J J Davies 8-13	**Amie Waugh (5)**
8	(2)	0560	**WICHAHPI** 7 (P) B Smart 8-11	**G Lee**
9	(8)	6620	**GOLDMINE GIRL** 16 Craig Lidster 8-10	**S James**

5-2 Crack The Kode, 11-4 Lady Ava, 7-2 Marie's Secret, 15-2 Celestial Flight, 10-1 Justahunch, 12-1 Red Iris, 16-1 Goldmine Girl, 25-1 Wichahpi, Curious Mrs Fox.

Wright choice: Marie's Secret raced up with an overly strong early pace at Ripon **Dangers:** Justahunch, Lady Ava

3.30 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £10,800: 7f) (6)

1	(5)	134	**ZABRISKIE POINT** 26 C Hills 9-10	**W Buick**
2	(4)	2	**CANDONOMORE** 52 T Easterby 9-4	**D Allan**
3	(6)	40	**CASTLE IN THE SAND** 24 A Balding 9-4	**P J McDonald**
4	(2)		**GIVITAWHIRL** B Brookhouse 9-4	**S Cherchi**
5	(1)		**NABILOV** K R Burke 9-4	**C Lee**
6	(3)		**SKY HAWK** R Fahey 9-4	**Oisin Orr**

15-8 Zabriskie Point, 9-4 Candonomore, 4-1 Castle In The Sand, 8-1 Nabilov, 10-1 Sky Hawk, 12-1 Givitawhirl.

Wright choice: Zabriskie Point was a good fourth at York and will relish this stiffer test **Danger:** Candonomore

4.05 Handicap (£4,187: 6f) (12)

1	(11)	60310	**HOT SCOOP** 6 (P,T,D) S England 5-9-9	**P Mulrennan**
2	(9)	03300	**GLORY HALLELUJAH** 2 (CD) N Tinkler 4-9-8	**R Scott**
3	(7)	00360	**MAI ALWARD** 7 (B,T,D) T Davidson 3-9-7	**P J McDonald**
4	(3)	0-300	**SMOOCH** 38 J J Quinn 3-9-7	**J Hart**
5	(10)	15266	**CAPTAIN DANDY** 7 (D) R Fahey 3-9-5	**Oisin Orr**
6	(8)	53040	**HOWYADOIN** 7 (V) M Appleby 3-9-4	**A Rawlinson**
7	(12)	02036	**JAZZAGAL** 18 T Easterby 3-9-2	**D Allan**
8	(2)	06550	**CAPTAIN CORCORAN** 9 (B) Mrs Stella Barclay 6-9-1	**C Howarth (5)**
9	(5)	00000	**NODSASGOODASAWINK** 2 (P,CD) Miss L Perratt 5-9-1	**P Mathers**
10	(6)	003-0	**STRIP OUT** 23 (H) T Coyle 3-9-0	**T Eaves**
11	(1)	00435	**WRENEGADE LAD** 19 P Midgley 3-8-13	**G Lee**
12	(4)	06060	**KASINO** 23 (H,D) B Smart 3-8-13	**A Breslin (3)**

100-30 Captain Dandy, 4-1 Howyadoin, 11-2 Jazzagal, 8-1 Smooch, Glory Hallelujah, 12-1 Hot Scoop, Wrenegade Lad, 14-1 Mai Alward, Captain Corcoran.

Wright choice: Captain Dandy needed the run at Newcastle after a break **Dangers:** Wrenegade Lad, Glory Hallelujah

4.40 Novice Stakes (£5,400: 6f) (6)

1	(4)	1	**MEZZO SOPRANO** 19 S & E Crisford 3-9-8	**W Buick**
2	(3)	5-	**CANDY EYE** 272 T Tate 3-9-2	**G Lee**
3	(6)		**MIDREAM** E Walker 3-9-2	**P J McDonald**
4	(2)		**SHOUT TO THE TOP** J J Quinn 3-9-2	**J Hart**
5	(5)	03	**TOP GUN TINA** 10 D Thompson 3-9-2	**S B Kirrane**
6	(1)	0	**WILLOW BABY** 38 J Ward 3-9-2	**G Sanna (5)**

4-7 Mezzo Soprano, 5-1 Midream, 13-2 Shout To The Top, 7-1 Candy Eye, 16-1 Top Gun Tina, 66-1 Willow Baby.

Wright choice: Candy Eye was hampered when fifth at Newcastle; can defy a long absence **Danger:** Mezzo Soprano

5.15 Handicap (£4,187: 1m) (12)

1	(9)	34521	**VICTORIA FALLS** 30 (V,D) H Palmer 4-10-0	**C Planas (3)**
2	(12)	21052	**PURPLE GOWN** 13 (D) A Nicol 4-9-13	**J Hart**
3	(5)	22312	**MEASURED MOMENTS** 47 J Butler 4-9-13	**C Beasley**
4	(6)	13030	**POWDERING** 18 (B,D) K Ryan 3-9-9	**T Eaves**
5	(7)	0-004	**DOUBLE TOT** 30 D M Simcock 3-9-9	**J Fanning**
6	(1)	64440	**CHORUS LINE** 19 E Dunlop 3-9-9	**C Lee**
7	(10)	3255	**STREETZOFFILLY** 24 D O'Meara 3-9-8	**D Nolan**
8	(11)	10115	**WALEYFA** 117 (BF,D) Alice Haynes 5-9-7	**C Howarth (5)**
9	(3)	4-200	**OUT OF MISCHIEF** 91 (W) J O'Keeffe 3-9-6	**J Garritty**
10	(8)	-3500	**GRACELANDS GIRL** 11 T Easterby 4-9-5	**D Allan**
11	(4)	43045	**VIOLETA** 17 B Haslam 3-9-4	**P Mulrennan**
12	(2)	0-156	**BEAUTRON** 72 (T) T Easterby 3-9-3	**S B Kirrane**

3-1 Victoria Falls, 7-2 Measured Moments, 7-1 Purple Gown, 8-1 Double Tot, 10-1 Waleyfa, 12-1 Streetzoffilly, Beautron, Powdering, Violeta.

Wright choice: Measured Moments missed the break when second at Sandown **Dangers:** Victoria Falls, Streetzoffilly

5.50 Handicap (£4,187: 7f) (15)

1	(3)	21411	**MUTANAASEQ** 6 (C,D) R Carr 8-9-12(4ex)	**JP Sullivan**
2	(14)	42030	**ROACH POWER** 23 T Easterby 4-9-11	**D Allan**
3	(1)	01340	**ROCKET ROD** 10 (D) G Harker 6-9-10	**S James**
4	(5)	20123	**KATS BOB** 10 (P,D) I Jardine 5-9-10	**A Mullen**
5	(9)	05605	**KALGANOV** 10 (T) D O'Meara 4-9-7	**D Nolan**
6	(13)	00216	**FIRST GREYED** 37 (V,CD) M Dods 5-9-6	**C Beasley**
7	(11)	366	**ARMOURED** 38 R Fell & S Murray 4-9-5	**J Hart**
8	(15)	32142	**CARIBBEAN SUNSET** 10 (BF) G Tuer 5-9-5	**O Stammers**
9	(12)	33545	**BURJ MALINKA** 44 Adrian Nicholls 5-9-4	**C Murtagh**
10	(7)	20300	**CUBANISTA** 12 (D) Olly Williams 4-9-3	**C Lee**
11	(6)	00336	**RUN THIS WAY** 52 (BF,C,D) P Midgley 5-9-2	**G Lee**
12	(10)	23300	**COAXING** 19 (D) D & N Barron 4-9-1	**J Fanning**
13	(2)	11620	**EY UP ITS JAZZ** 44 (BF,CD) T Coyle 4-8-12	**T Eaves**
14	(4)	22150	**RUM RUNNER** 10 (D) G Harker 8-8-4	**Mia Nicholls (7)**
15	(8)	05103	**STONEY LANE** 19 (P,D) Simon Whitaker 8-8-4	**C Hardie**

9-2 Mutanaaseq, 6-1 Kats Bob, 13-2 Caribbean Sunset, 10-1 Run This Way, Ey Up Its Jazz, 12-1 Burj Malinka, Rocket Rod, First Greyed.

Wright choice: Ey Up Its Jazz can bounce back from a poor run at Doncaster **Dangers:** First Greyed, Kats Bob

Brighton

Rob Wright

1.55 Eight Mile
2.30 Tea Sea
3.05 Miss Harmony
3.40 Plus Point (nap)
4.15 Uncle Dick
4.45 Bear To Dream
5.20 Neptune Legend

Going: good to firm — **Sky Sports Racing**

Draw: 5f-6f, low numbers best

1.55 Handicap (£3,245: 6f) (7)

1	(7)	01420	**HEY MR** 48 Alexandra Dunn 5-9-13	**T Fisher (3)**
2	(1)	14003	**THE PRINCES POET** 14 (P,BF,CD) E J-Houghton 5-9-13	**D Probert**
3	(3)	51164	**EIGHT MILE** 37 (CD) G Scott 3-9-12	**B Loughnane**
4	(5)	2-633	**MUMAYAZ** 74 (T) A Carroll 4-9-10	**J Watson**
5	(4)	43031	**CONCIERGE** 45 (P,D) M Attwater 7-9-9	**P Bradley (3)**
6	(6)	20405	**BATCHELOR BOY** 14 (B,BF,CD) J Gallagher 6-9-7	**D Keenan**
7	(2)	65132	**PHOENIX GLOW** 12 (CD) Jack Channon 3-9-4	**Rose Dawes (5)**

3-1 Concierge, 7-2 Phoenix Glow, 5-1 Eight Mile, 11-2 The Princes Poet, 6-1 Mumayaz, 7-1 Hey Mr, 10-1 Batchelor Boy.

2.30 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 1m) (7)

1	(2)	52232	**HARRY THE HAGGLER** 17 (T,BF) S C Williams 3-9-7	**M Ghiani**
2	(4)		**JESSE LUC** M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-7	**L Morris**
3	(1)	000-0	**TEA SEA** 74 (B,H) A Carroll 3-9-7	**W Carson**
4	(6)	60004	**UNO GRANDE** 12 (B) Sir M Todd 3-9-7	**D Probert**
5	(3)		**HEDENHAM** M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-2	**T Fisher (3)**
6	(7)	45032	**RAYENA** 33 (T,V) Patrick Owens 3-9-2	**D Keenan**
7	(5)	60540	**SCRAMBLE** 4 C Allen 3-9-2	**J Quinn**

9-4 Harry The Haggler, 5-2 Tea Sea, 4-1 Scramble, 5-1 Rayena, 14-1 Jesse Luc, Uno Grande, 16-1 Hedenham.

3.05 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 2f) (13)

1	(6)	6600-	**MEADRAM** 294 M Tregoning 5-10-0	**W Carver**
2	(9)	04330	**PLATINUM PRINCE** 31 (V,C,D) G L Moore 6-9-12	**Anna Gibson (5)**
3	(11)	02042	**MISS HARMONY** 22 (P,D) M Bell 4-9-10	**J Bradnam (7)**
4	(13)	04162	**HABANERO STAR** 22 (P,C,D) G Kelleway 6-9-9	**B Loughnane**
5	(1)	04012	**LONG CALL** J9 (CD) A Carroll 10-9-9	**Molly Gunn (7)**
6	(5)	055	**DECISIVE CALL** 49 G L Moore 3-9-7	**P Bradley**
7	(10)	06630	**LOWICK** 17 D & C Kubler 3-9-7	**A Farragher**
8	(12)	00-P0	**FLORENCE STREET** 12 (V) Mrs L Richards 5-9-5	**A Keeley**
9	(7)	22151	**SEND IN THE CLOUDS** 12 (C) A Carroll 6-9-5	**Mollie Phillips**
10	(4)	-0500	**TAMAY GIRL** 30 Alexandra Dunn 3-9-3	**T Fisher**
11	(8)	-0654	**BBOB ALULA** 14 (T,C) W G M Turner 8-9-0	**Gina Mangan**
12	(2)	50060	**MYSTERIOUS MAESTRO** 14 (P,T) S & E Crisford 3-8-12	**H Davies**
13	(3)	35234	**BILLAKI MOU** 12 (H) G Baker 3-8-11	**Millie Wonnacott (3)**

7-2 Send In The Clouds, 11-2 Miss Harmony, 7-1 Habanero Star, Long Call, 8-1 Platinum Prince, 10-1 Meadram, Billaki Mou, 12-1 others.

3.40 Handicap (£4,606: 1m 4f) (7)

1	(6)	-0365	**STILL STANDING** 38 (B,T) Alexandra Dunn 8-10-0	**T Fisher (3)**
2	(4)	00435	**SWORD BEACH** 28 (V) A King 6-9-12	**D Probert**
3	(3)	41620	**ON THE RIGHT TRACK** 13 (D) M Usher 6-9-12	**J Haynes**
4	(5)	0-001	**PLUS POINT** 53 Harry Eustace 3-9-9	**G Wood**
5	(7)	13431	**ROBUSTO** 7 (D) Sir M Prescott 3-9-8	**L Morris**
6	(2)	11006	**CLOUDY ROSE** 28 (CD) J Berry 5-8-12	**A Farragher (3)**
7	(1)	054-0	**ON THE NOSE** 14 (C) M Hoad 5-8-11	**A Keeley (3)**

11-10 Robusto, 3-1 Plus Point, 7-1 Sword Beach, 8-1 Cloudy Rose, 12-1 On The Right Track, 16-1 Still Standing, 20-1 On The Nose.

4.15 Handicap (£3,245: 1m) (8)

1	(6)	01560	**DARVEL** 28 (B,CD) P Chamings 5-9-12	**L Morris**
2	(8)	20400	**MICKS DREAM** 30 D Faulkner 5-9-10	**Gina Mangan (3)**
3	(3)	5565-	**GREEN POWER** 483 (D) J Gallagher 8-9-8	**Kaiya Fraser (5)**
4	(7)	-2056	**STOPNSEARCH** 31 (D) B Johnson 6-9-7	**W Carson**
5	(2)	02436	**PERFECT GENTLEMAN** 33 (D) G Scott 3-9-6	**B Loughnane**
6	(4)	04331	**LOCAL BAY** 39 (T,CD) A Carroll 5-9-5	**J Watson**
7	(1)	0-46	**DEEP IN MY HEART** 19 A Balding 3-9-4	**D Probert**
8	(5)	-0131	**UNCLE DICK** 7 (CD) E J-Houghton 5-9-4	**Georgia Dobie (3)**

2-1 Uncle Dick, 5-2 Local Bay, 6-1 Perfect Gentleman, 13-2 Deep In My Heart, 12-1 Darvel, 14-1 Stopnsearch, Green Power, Micks Dream.

4.45 Handicap (£3,245: 7f) (12)

1	(11)	00032	**ICONIC KNIGHT** 3 (D) J Flint 8-9-9	**W Cox**
2	(6)	46003	**MISS SARAJEVO** 14 (D) Alexandra Dunn 3-9-6	**T Fisher (3)**
3	(5)	31412	**MOONDIAL** 7 (D) D & C Kubler 3-9-6	**J Crowley**
4	(9)	44634	**SIR TITAN** 14 (D) A Carroll 9-9-6	**Molly Gunn (7)**
5	(10)	40045	**EVASIVE POWER** 25 (D) R Brisland 7-9-5	**B Loughnane**
6	(7)	40650	**AJRAD** 19 (D) M Attwater 5-9-4	**A Farragher (3)**
7	(2)	11203	**HEER'S SADIE** 14 (CD) J Feilden 5-8-13	**A Keeley (3)**
8	(4)	56333	**SILVER DIVA** 14 J Gallagher 5-8-12	**D Keenan**
9	(1)	23605	**BEAR TO DREAM** 12 (CD) M Attwater 4-8-12	**Millie Wonnacott (5)**
10	(3)	04245	**ARLO'S SUNSHINE** 14 (D) J Long 6-8-10	**L Wright (7)**
11	(12)	-6060	**DON'T FIGHT IT** 12 S Woodman 3-8-9	**W Carson**
12	(8)	00000	**RUNNER BEAN** 9 (B) E De Giles 4-8-9	**L Morris**

4-1 Iconic Knight, 9-2 Moondial, 6-1 Silver Diva, Evasive Power, 15-2 Heer's Sadie, 8-1 Sir Titan, Arlo's Sunshine, 10-1 Bear To Dream.

5.20 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (12)

1	(7)	52406	**CUBAN GREY** 21 (P,T,D) M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-10	**M Ghiani**
2	(5)	0036-	**DOC SPORTELLO** 349 (C,D) A Carroll 11-9-9	**Mollie Phillips (3)**
3	(11)	06344	**AREILLE** 23 (P) Jack Jones 4-9-8	**D Probert**
4	(4)	-600U	**SECOND COLLECTION** 3 (H,D) A Carroll 7-9-8	**W Carson**
5	(10)	11322	**NOTRE MAISON** 15 (B,BF,CD) W Kittow 4-9-7	**L Morris**
6	(6)	01341	**VOODOO RAY** 14 (B,C) G L Moore 4-9-5	**T P Queally**
7	(3)	03504	**SUANNI** 9 (B,T,D) Darryll Holland 4-9-3	**L Wright (7)**
8	(1)	60046	**NEPTUNE LEGEND** 26 (T) A Carroll 4-9-3	**J Watson**
9	(12)	04-60	**HAVEAGOBEAU** 15 J Boyle 4-9-0	**J Crowley**
10	(2)	10600	**KODI DANCER** 14 (B,CD) M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-0	**B Loughnane**
11	(9)	32403	**ARZAAK** 15 (CD) C Wallis 9-9-0	**G Wood**
12	(8)	00-6	**RHODIUM** 19 J Boyle 3-8-13	**C Bennett**

3-1 Voodoo Ray, 100-30 Notre Maison, 11-2 Areille, 15-2 Suanni, 10-1 Cuban Grey, 12-1 Haveagobeau, Arzaak, 14-1 Neptune Legend.

Kempton Park

Rob Wright

4.52 Naturalia
5.30 The Spotlight Kid
6.00 Vultar
6.30 Heavens To Betsy
7.00 Hedonista
7.30 King Of The Dance
8.00 Lady Of Arabia
8.30 Frankfreya

Going: standard to slow

Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best — **Racing TV**

4.52 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,140: 7f) (11)

1	(1)	650	**NATURALIA** 12 R Guest 9-11	**Rossa Ryan**
2	(6)	00132	**PINPOINT** 12 R Hannon 9-10	**A Voikhansky (5)**
3	(2)	60530	**DIDDY MAN** 26 (P) T Dascombe 9-9	**R Kingscote**
4	(3)	25066	**LADY SHOWCASING** 19 C Johnston 9-8	**A Young (7)**
5	(7)	00000	**TIME SIGNATURE** 54 W Knight 9-8	**N Callan**
6	(5)	0000	**RITZY** 21 S Kirk 9-7	**T Marquand**
7	(11)	060	**NEWFANGLED** 17 J Portman 9-7	**R Hornby**
8	(10)	343P3	**CHERRY HILL** 35 D F Davis 9-7	**O Murphy**
9	(4)	00012	**RISING FORCE** 2 (D) R Eddery 9-3	**D Hogan**
10	(9)	20505	**VIDI VICI** 14 E J-Houghton 8-10	**R Clutterbuck**
11	(8)	40455	**MIST OF LIR** 7 (P) Miss A Murphy 8-8	**H Doyle**

5-2 Pinpoint, 5-1 Rising Force, 6-1 Cherry Hill, 15-2 Diddy Man, 10-1 Naturalia, Mist Of Lir, 12-1 Newfangled, Lady Showcasing.

5.30 Handicap (£4,187: 7f) (12)

1	(12)	10430	**LILKIAN** 10 (C,D) Darryll Holland 6-10-1	**O Murphy**
2	(3)	0-006	**TICKETS** 160 (CD) I Furtado 4-9-11	**S M Levey**
3	(1)	-5011	**PORT ERIN** 24 (D) S & E Crisford 3-9-9	**J Mitchell**
4	(2)	00043	**THE SPOTLIGHT KID** 53 (P,D) D Ivory 4-9-9	**C Fallon**
5	(6)	00000	**MAHARAJAS EXPRESS** 19 (C) R Spencer 3-9-8	**N Callan**
6	(5)	50032	**KING OF ITHACA** 19 (BF,D) J Tate 3-9-6	**Rossa Ryan**
7	(11)	062-0	**PERFECT FOCUS** 19 L Carter 6-9-6	**Josephine Gordon**
8	(8)	4-364	**WEYDAAD** 48 (T) S C Williams 4-9-4	**H Crouch**
9	(4)	-0243	**MISS GALLAGHER** 22 (B) W Jarvis 3-9-4	**S Osborne**
10	(7)	50001	**SWEET BERTIE** 116 (H,D) J Butler 5-9-3	**D Hogan**
11	(10)	04326	**CHALK MOUNTAIN** 54 (D) W Kittow 3-9-2	**R Hornby**
12	(9)	-4500	**MIDNIGHT FLAME** 72 Joe Ponting 3-8-13	**K O'Neill**

7-2 Port Erin, 4-1 King Of Ithaca, 7-1 The Spotlight Kid, Sweet Bertie, 15-2 Miss Gallagher, 8-1 Chalk Mountain, 10-1 Weydaad, 14-1 Tickets, Lilkian.

6.00 Novice Stakes (£3,780: 6f) (10)

1	(4)	61	**ALEXI BOY** 19 M Bell 3-9-11	**H Crouch**
2	(5)	1	**ELECTRIC STORM** 33 (C) J Tate 3-9-6	**Rossa Ryan**
3	(3)	0-	**TOP BUTTON** 530 Jack Jones 5-9-6	**D Hogan**
4	(1)		**INDIE SKIES** D P Quinn 3-9-4	**T Whelan**
5	(6)	6	**KODI HAWK** 12 D Shaw 3-9-4	**J Fisher (5)**
6	(7)		**MR MUSTACHE** G Boughey 3-9-4	**C Shepherd**
7	(8)		**PRIDE OF SPAIN** A Watson 3-9-4	**H Doyle**
8	(10)	2-2	**VULTAR** 30 (BF) C Cox 3-9-4	**R Kingscote**
9	(2)	0	**MAID FOR HARRY** 33 W Stone 3-8-13	**N Callan**
10	(9)	02-	**SILVRETTA** 346 (H) A Balding 3-8-13	**O Murphy**

9-4 Vultar, 11-4 Silvretta, 7-2 Alexi Boy, 4-1 Electric Storm, 14-1 Mr Mustache, Pride Of Spain, 33-1 Kodi Hawk, 50-1 Maid For Harry, Indie Skies, 66-1 Top Button.

6.30 Novice Stakes (£5,346: 1m 4f) (8)

1	(6)	20	**FAZAYTE** 123 R Potter 8-9-11	**F Marsh**
2	(1)	22-22	**ATLANTIS BLUE** 26 (H) G Baker 4-9-6	**N Callan**
3	(8)	6	**CAMARRATE** 170 G Tuer 3-9-4	**D Muscutt**
4	(5)		**HURTLE WALLOP** J Boyle 3-9-4	**Rossa Ryan**
5	(2)	66	**KING OF THE PRIDE** 12 J Ferguson 3-9-4	**C Fallon**
6	(7)	5	**MARZOCCO** 25 A Balding 3-9-4	**O Murphy**
7	(3)	4	**HEAVENS TO BETSY** 22 W Haggas 3-8-13	**T Marquand**
8	(4)	4	**HIGHLAND QUARTZ** 42 S C Williams 3-8-13	**H Crouch**

9-4 Atlantis Blue, 3-1 Heavens To Betsy, 7-2 Marzocco, 8-1 Highland Quartz, 10-1 Camarrate, 12-1 Fazayte, 16-1 King Of The Pride, Hurtle Wallop.

7.00 Handicap (£6,281: 2m) (8)

1	(6)	-4605	**MOUNTAIN ROAD** 9 (BF,D) D M Simcock 4-10-2	**C Shepherd**
2	(8)	00-00	**NUITS ST GEORGES** 18 (D) D Menuisier 8-10-2	**O Murphy**
3	(7)	051-1	**STUDY THE STARS** 10 (C) G Baker 5-10-0	**N Callan**
4	(5)	00030	**GREEN TEAM** 26 (P) I Williams 4-10-0	**D Egan**
5	(2)	21450	**PONS AELIUS** 13 (CD) C Johnston 4-10-0	**F Norton**
6	(1)	232-5	**CHARLES ST** 17 (P) F O'Brien 4-9-10	**H Doyle**
7	(4)	00-00	**SKY POWER** 40 R Stephens 6-9-3	**K Shoemark**
8	(3)	21304	**HEDONISTA** 35 E Walker 3-8-10	**S Osborne**

3-1 Study The Stars, 7-2 Pons Aelius, 4-1 Hedonista, 6-1 Charles St, 13-2 Green Team, Mountain Road, 16-1 Nuits St Georges, 50-1 Sky Power.

7.30 Handicap (Div I: £4,187: 1m) (12)

1	(6)	36242	**KING CABO** 16 (BF,CD) L Dace 4-10-1	**O Murphy**
2	(2)	52/0	**OCEAN HEIGHTS** 40 (T) D Pipe 6-9-13	**R Hornby**
3	(10)	42465	**ALMARIN** 24 (B,D) Patrick Owens 3-9-11	**S Osborne**
4	(1)	33230	**CALYPSO** 26 (T,V) J Ferguson 3-9-10	**D Muscutt**
5	(3)	-1466	**RED TREASURE** 16 (V) E Dunlop 3-9-10	**H Doyle**
6	(12)	01256	**UNITED FORCE** 24 (P) C Hobson 3-9-9	**J Mitchell**
7	(8)	4-106	**GET STUCK IN** 17 (D) C Johnston 3-9-9	**R Kingscote**
8	(5)	321	**KARAKOY** 84 H & R Charlton 3-9-7	**T Whelan**
9	(11)	00600	**KAARANAH** 84 (D) J Butler 5-9-5	**D Hogan**
10	(7)	30651	**KING OF THE DANCE** 12 (P,D) E J-Houghton 4-9-4	**T Marquand**
11	(4)	1-406	**INTRICATE PILLAR** 40 (C) T Ward 3-9-2	**S M Levey**
12	(9)	43545	**MAGNANIMOUS MEHMUS** 22 (H) Alice Haynes 3-9-0	**K O'Neill**

3-1 Karakoy, 100-30 King Cabo, 6-1 King of The Dance, 13-2 Calypso, 10-1 Red Treasure, Almarin, 14-1 Intricate Pillar, Magnanimous Mehmus.

8.00 Handicap (Div II: £4,187: 1m) (12)

1	(7)	50600	**FRANCESI** 33 (P,D) S P C Woods 4-10-0	**T Marquand**
2	(10)	13450	**BOBBY'S BLESSING** 22 (V) C Johnston 4-9-11	**D Muscutt**
3	(3)	35260	**WILD HURRICANE** 26 (V) S bin Suroor 5-9-11	**O Murphy**
4	(11)	50000	**NOPOLI** 20 (P,T,D) I Mohammed 3-9-10	**S M Levey**
5	(8)	6330	**PHOTON** 20 R Teal 3-9-9	**C Fallon**
6	(4)	14055	**SOLANNA** 31 (CD) J Butler 4-9-9	**D Hogan**
7	(9)	-2052	**GIANT** 63 R Spencer 3-9-9	**N Callan**
8	(2)	21424	**LADY OF ARABIA** 30 (BF,CD) E J-Houghton 3-9-6	**H Crouch**
9	(5)	326-0	**MAJESTIC NEWLAW** 20 P & O Cole 3-9-5	**K Shoemark**
10	(1)	0343	**DUBAI DREAMER** 30 (BF) R Varian 3-9-3	**D Egan**
11	(6)	3-005	**RED HAT EAGLE** 19 (H) W Knight 3-9-2	**C Shepherd**
12	(12)	04000	**ASHMORE** 23 D Menuisier 3-8-13	**Rossa Ryan**

100-30 Dubai Dreamer, 7-2 Lady Of Arabia, 5-1 Giant, 10-1 Wild Hurricane, Solanna, 12-1 Bobby's Blessing, 14-1 Majestic Newlaw, Red Hat Eagle.

8.30 Handicap (£3,140: 1m 3f) (14)

1	(7)	0102-	**MITIGATOR** 488 (B,CD) Jack Jones 7-9-12	**D Hogan**
2	(3)	36046	**EXTINCTION** 41 J Ferguson 6-9-12	**M Bloss (7)**
3	(5)	14150	**SEATTLE KING** 111 P McEntee 4-9-11	**Josephine Gordon**
4	(13)	45443	**LARGO BAY** 14 (V,C) M Madgwick 5-9-9	**G Rooke**
5	(8)	34325	**GEELONG** 25 (B) P & O Cole 4-9-9	**T Marquand**
6	(11)	03345	**HILDEGARD** 17 (P) A Watson 3-9-7	**H Doyle**
7	(12)	00046	**PYSANKA** 22 (P) M Loughnane 4-9-6	**F Marsh**
8	(14)	-0001	**FRANKFREYA** 18 R Teal 3-9-6	**F Larson (3)**
9	(1)	-0044	**GOODWOOD VISION** 14 D Menuisier 3-9-5	**K Shoemark**
10	(2)	-2353	**ALBUS ANNE** 33 J Fox 4-9-5	**A Voikhansky (5)**
11	(4)	-0600	**DELVEY** 14 K Jewell 4-9-5	**C Fallon**
12	(10)	-0066	**SMART CHARGER** 14 A Carroll 3-9-4	**N Callan**
13	(9)	43354	**STORM VALLEY** 7 (BF) A Balding 3-9-4	**O Murphy**
14	(6)	-0005	**BEAR FORCE** 76 J Portman 3-9-4	**R Hornby**

4-1 Frankfreya, 11-2 Albus Anne, 13-2 Storm Valley, 7-1 Largo Bay, 8-1 Geelong, 10-1 Mitigator, Hildegard, Goodwood Vision.

Worcester

Rob Wright

2.05 Glory And Honour
2.40 Fix At All
3.15 Newmill Getaway
3.50 Stungbythemaster
4.25 Rock House
5.00 The Geordie Ginge
5.35 Methodtothemagic
6.10 Glengeever

Going: good

Sky Sports Racing

2.05 Handicap Chase (£6,337: 2m 110yd) (4)

1	000-5	**GRAND ROI** 21 (P) James Owen 7-11-10	**Mr A Chadwick (7)**
2	30-11	**FRINGILL DIKE** 19 (B,D) J O'Keeffe 6-11-0	**C Hammond**
3	05-12	**GLORY AND HONOUR** 9 (T,D) S England 7-10-7	**J England**
4	-6PF3	**WITH A START** 43 (T) P Winks 8-10-5	**J Best**

11-10 Fringill Dike, 6-4 Glory And Honour, 4-1 Grand Roi, 50-1 With A Start.

2.40 Handicap Chase (£11,935: 2m 4f) (7)

1	-2531	**HANG IN THERE** 25 (CD) E Lavelle 9-12-0	**J A Anderson (5)**
2	-3052	**FRANCKY DU BERLAIS** 16 (T,D) P Bowen 10-11-10	**J Bowen**
3	6-103	**LA DOMANIALE** 25 (D) Jonjo O'Neill 7-11-6	**J O'Neill Jr**
4	P-324	**HATCHER** 78 D Skelton 10-10-11	**H Skelton**
5	-6423	**TOPOFTHECOTSWOLDS** 45 (P,C) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-11	**S Twiston-Davies**
6	-2200	**FIX AT ALL** 16 (D) N Mulholland 7-10-7	**R McLernon**
7	33341	**KAUTO THE KING** 16 (T,CD) Joe Tizzard 9-10-2	**B J Powell**

9-4 Hang In There, 3-1 Francky Du Berlais, 6-1 Topofthecotswolds, Hatcher, 7-1 Kauto The King, 8-1 La Domaniale, 12-1 Fix At All.

3.15 NH Flat Race (Div II: £2,614: 2m) (9)

1	121	**TRIBAL GLORY** 27 (CD) F O'Brien 5-11-9	**Mr B Sutton (7)**
2	4	**ATACAMA SKY** 18 G Hanmer 5-11-2	**C Ward (3)**
3		**CLOUGHROE** D P Quinn 5-11-2	**B J Powell**
4	63-	**LITTLE PETER** 155 J Berry 5-11-2	**B Hughes**
5	0	**FRITES** 76 Georgina Nicholls 4-11-0	**Miss Olive Nicholls (7)**
6	431	**NEWMILL GETAWAY** 15 (CD) D Brace 4-11-0	**C Brace**
7	1	**TOUCHWOODEXPRESS** 140 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-0	**S Twiston-Davies**
8		**IRENE'S PEARL** Alexandra Dunn 4-10-7	**A Wedge**
9		**WALKING IT OFF** J Snowden 4-10-7	**G Sheehan**

5-2 Tribal Glory, 4-1 Newmill Getaway, 9-2 Touchwoodexpress, 5-1 Little Peter, Walking It Off, 8-1 Atacama Sky, 33-1 Frites, Cloughroe, 50-1 Irene's Pearl.

3.50 NH Flat Race (Div II: £2,614: 2m) (9)

1	1-	**PRAIRIE DIAMOND** 215 (D) M Keighley 4-11-7	**S Bowen**
2		**YOGI'S TRAIL** M Sheppard 5-11-2	**S Sheppard**
3		**BAHIO BOUM** D Skelton 4-11-0	**H Skelton**
4	4	**HARBOUR BRIDGE** 27 Miss J Davis 4-11-0	**G Sheehan**
5	0	**HUTCHESON** 18 (T) James Owen 4-11-0	**H Cobden**
6		**STUNGBYTHEMASTER** F O'Brien 4-11-0	**C Brace**
7	42	**THE EVENTMASTER** 27 (H) B Brookhouse 4-11-0	**J Quinlan**
8	4-3	**SHIRLEY KNOTT** 25 (T) A West 4-10-7	**L Edwards**
9	5	**BASMAN PALACE** 49 (T) C J Gray 4-10-6	**M G Nolan**

11-4 The Eventmaster, 4-1 Bahio Boum, 5-1 Stungbythemaster, Prairie Diamond, 6-1 Harbour Bridge, 10-1 Shirley Knott, 12-1 Hutcheson, 25-1 others.

4.25 Maiden Hurdle (Div I: £4,357: 2m) (10)

1	42-2	**ALRIGHT DAI** 49 N Mulholland 5-11-4	**H Cobden**
2	04	**BOWMANS DREAM** 16 C J Gray 7-11-4	**Elizabeth Gale (7)**
3	6-	**LONE SOLDIER** 248 (W,BF) D Skelton 5-11-4	**T Durrell (5)**
4	1/1-2	**ROCK HOUSE** 128 (D) D Skelton 5-11-4	**H Skelton**
5	2	**BLACK OCC** 121 Sheila Lewis 4-11-2	**S Houlihan**
6	0-11	**CORPORAL JACKJONES** 96 Syd Hosie 4-11-2	**M G Nolan**
7	2435-	**MR MACKAY** 172 N Twiston-Davies 4-11-2	**S Twiston-Davies**
8		**RUITH LE TU** F140 P Gundry 4-11-2	**H Kimber (3)**
9	53	**LUCKIE MONEY** 13 D McCain 7-10-11	**T Gillard**
10	06300	**PRINCESS UNIQUE** 27 P Bowen 4-10-9	**S Bowen**

2-1 Rock House, 5-2 Corporal Jackjones, 7-2 Alright Dai, 8-1 Lone Soldier, Mr Mackay, 20-1 Luckie Money, 25-1 Black Occ, 33-1 Ruith Le Tu.

5.00 Maiden Hurdle (Div II: £4,357: 2m) (9)

1	F-043	**AFTA PARTY** F52 (H,T) M Gillard 5-11-4	**T Gillard**
2	U63-0	**GIEVES** 19 (H) B Pauling 5-11-4	**K Woods**
3	0P-	**HERESMAX** 232 R Bandey 5-11-4	**H Bannister**
4	0-232	**THE GEORDIE GINGE** 18 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4	**S Twiston-Davies**
5	553	**AR EL BEE** 16 Harry Derham 4-11-2	**P O'Brien**
6	34P45	**BUCK OF MAINE** 7 P Bowen 4-11-2	**Doubtful**
7	P-400	**GO ON YA GOODTHING** 18 (T) D Brace 4-11-2	**C Brace**
8	6	**SIDE STEPPER** 27 Christian Williams 4-11-2	**N Scholfield**
9	0/45-	**EMILY'S STAR** 168 D Skelton 6-10-11	**H Skelton**

6-5 The Geordie Ginge, 5-2 Ar El Bee, 6-1 Emily's Star, 8-1 Afta Party, 12-1 Gieves, 16-1 Side Stepper, 50-1 Heresmax, Go On Ya Goodthing.

5.35 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m 4f) (12)

1	3-413	**METHODTOTHEMAGIC** 55 (D) R Phillips 8-12-0	**F Lambert (5)**
2	0116/	**ROSEARELLI** 523 (T) Dr R Newland 8-11-9	**C Hammond**
3	60443	**HEDERA PARK** 6 (H) D Hamer 5-11-6	**H Cobden**
4	0-544	**MALAGO ROSE** 53 S Earle 5-11-5	**J Best**
5	52240	**BETTY'S BELLE** 15 (P) Tracey Leeson 6-11-3	**Mr J Turner (7)**
6	35-44	**STAMINA CHOPE** 102 Dave Roberts 7-11-2	**L Edwards**
7	055-4	**STARGAZER BELLE** 140 (H) B Case 5-11-1	**H Bannister**
8	35/03	**OCEAN REACH** 9 R J Price 7-11-1	**Harriet Tucker (7)**
9	00040	**GRINN** 27 (P,T) D Rees 7-11-0	**S Bowen**
10	30400	**ENERGY TWO** 27 (H) P Hobbs & J White 4-10-11	**M G Nolan**
11	-6550	**BELLA MADONNA** 70 S Earle 5-10-10	**D Noonan**
12	0-501	**CELESTIAL PARK** 19 (H,D) B Case 5-10-9	**J Quinlan**

5-2 Celestial Park, 5-1 Methodtothemagic, 6-1 Rosearelli, 7-1 Hedera Park, 10-1 Stargazer Belle, Stamina Chope, 12-1 Energy Two, Ocean Reach.

6.10 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 7f) (9)

1	62161	**HUNGRY HILL** 6 (P,CD) Jonjo O'Neill 6-12-1(7ex)	**N Scholfield**
2	21631	**HALIFAX** 13 (P,T,D) G Harris 6-12-0	**C Ring (3)**
3	5-0P4	**EDISON KENT** 16 James Owen 7-11-7	**Lilly Pinchin (3)**
4	25P33	**GLENGEEVER** 9 (B) B Lund 7-11-6	**G Sheehan**
5	4-244	**PEACEFUL SUNDAY** 9 (P) J Candlish 7-11-4	**L Stones (3)**
6	-3613	**DYNAMIC KATE** 15 (P,T,CD) N Mulholland 7-10-13	**J A Anderson (5)**
7	P5-PP	**DARANOVA** 45 (P) G Hanmer 9-10-11	**K Brogan**
8	P2321	**CLASSIC CONCORDE** 20 (P,CD) D Brace 10-10-11	**C Brace**
9	6P213	**COAL FIRE** 21 P Bowen 7-10-5	**S Bowen**

3-1 Hungry Hill, 4-1 Halifax, 6-1 Classic Concorde, 7-1 Glengeever, 8-1 Edison Kent, Dynamic Kate, Coal Fire, 14-1 Peaceful Sunday, Daranova.

Course specialists

Brighton: Trainers S & E Crisford, 6 winners from 14 runners, 42.9%; M Tregoning, 8 from 19, 42.1%; M Murphy & Keady, 5 from 14, 35.7%. **Jockeys** Rose Dawes, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; T Fisher, 4 from 20, 20%; M Ghiani, 16 from 88, 18.2%.

Kempton Park: Trainers S bin Suroor, 31 from 123, 25.2%; R Varian, 65 from 279, 23.3%; S & E Crisford, 24 from 111, 21.6%. **Jockeys** J Fisher, 3 from 14, 21.4%; O Murphy, 88 from 428, 20.6%; A Voikhansky, 5 from 30, 16.7%.

Thirsk: Trainers A Haynes, 6 from 10, 60%; C Hills, 4 from 8, 50%; E Walker, 3 from 15, 20%. **Jockeys** W Buick, 3 from 5, 60%; A Rawlinson, 5 from 25, 20%; Z Wheatley, 5 from 25, 20%.

Worcester: Trainers A West, 4 from 10, 40%; P Bowen, 21 from 94, 22.3%; R Bandey, 4 from 18, 22.2%. **Jockeys** H Cobden, 20 from 77, 26%; S Bowen, 30 from 126, 23.8%; G Sheehan, 16 from 76, 21.1%.

Blinkered first time: Brighton 2.30 Tea Sea. 4.45 Runner Bean. 5.20 Notre Maison. **Thirsk** 2.20 Peaceful Protest. 2.20 Amazing Winnie. 5.15 Powdering.

Yesterday's racing results

Doncaster

Going: soft (good to soft in places)

1.50 (1m 2f 43yd) 1, **Ala Kaifi** (K Shoemark, 10-3 fav); 2, Richard P Smith (7-1); 3, Ayyab (5-1). 10 ran. 1l, hd. I Mohammed.

2.25 (7f 6yd) 1, **Poet Master** (S H James, 9-2); 2, Zouky (18-5); 3, Dark Thirty (17-2). 8 ran. NR: Alzahir. 2¾l, ½l. K R Burke.

3.00 (1m) 1, **I Still Have Faith** (T Scudamore, 100-30 fav); 2, Biplane (20-1); 3, Lion's Dream (12-1). 15 ran. NR: Dandy Maestro, Eleven Eleven, Global Spectrum. 2¼l, 1½l. B Brookhouse.

3.35 (7f 6yd) 1, **Matilda Picotte** (Oisin Murphy, 6-1); 2, Nigiri (3-1); 3, Vetiver (16-1). 10 ran. NR: Cell Sa Beela, Potapova. 3¾l, 2l. K P Cotter.

4.10 (5f 3yd) 1, **Rogue Lightning** (D Tudhope, 9-4); 2, Raasel (Evens fav); 3, Silky Wilkie (4-1). 4 ran. ¾l, 1¼l. Tom Clover.

4.45 (1m) 1, **Swift Salian** (Connor Beasley, 7-2); 2, Charming Whisper (5-1); 3, Sea The Dream (13-2). 6 ran. 3¼l, 1l. T D Barron.

5.20 (5f 143yd) 1, **Onemorenomore** (A J Farragher, 9-1); 2, Stone Of Destiny (9-1); 3, Lotus Rose (16-1). 11 ran. Nk, 2½l. P J McBride.

Placepot: £332.00.
Quadpot: £57.80.

Musselburgh

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

2.15 (5f 1yd) 1, **Ziggy's Queen** (O J Orr, 85-40); 2, Lady Pink Rose (6-4 fav); 3, Indispensable (7-4). NR: Shuangxi. Hd, 1½l. R A Fahey.

2.50 (5f 1yd) 1, **Canaria Queen** (D Allan, 5-2); 2, Sacred Falls (30-100 fav); 3, No Aw There (40-1). 5 ran. NR: Alexi Boy. 1¾l, 3l. T Easterby.

3.25 (1m 2yd) 1, **Tulekya** (Jason Hart, 5-1); 2, Hiromichi (11-4 fav); 3, Tabuk (12-1). 8 ran. ½l, 3¾l. K P De Foy.

4.00 (5f 1yd) 1, **Princess Karine** (Andrew Breslin, 9-4); 2, Rock Melody (8-11 fav); 3, Ramon Di Loria (8-1). 4 ran. NR: Khabib, Sugar Baby. 1l, 4¾l. B Smart.

4.35 (1m 4f 104yd) 1, **Spanish Hustle** (C Lee, 9-4 fav); 2, Blue Antares (3-1); 3, Graces Quest (11-2). 5 ran. 2½l, sh hd. J S Goldie.

5.10 (1m 7f 217yd) 1, **Yorkindness** (J Fanning, 15-8 fav); 2, It's Good To Laugh (9-4); 3, Haizoom (9-2). 5 ran. NR: Baez. ¾l, 1¾l. C Johnston.

5.45 (7f 33yd) 1, **Spartakos** (Jason Hart, 9-4 fav); 2, Kalama Sunrise (11-2); 3, Rogue Force (11-2). 6 ran. NR: Amerrone. 2¾l, 1¼l. K Scott.

Placepot: £44.40.
Quadpot: £12.80.

Sainz stops the Verstappen

Rebecca Clancy
Motor Racing Correspondent, Singapore



Formula One returned to its best under the lights in Singapore with an enthralling, breathless finish in which the top four cars fought to within two seconds of each other for victory.

In the end it was the Ferrari of Carlos Sainz that emerged victorious after smart race management on his part helped him convert pole position to a win. McLaren's Lando Norris also enjoyed a superb race to finish second, while the Mercedes of Lewis Hamilton finished on the podium for the 196th time in his career, inheriting the last step after his team-mate, George Russell, crashed into the barriers with only a few corners of the last lap remaining.

Russell was crestfallen. A few laps earlier he had rightly believed that he was battling for victory, only to find himself in the barrier while fireworks erupted as the chequered flag fell. He fought back the tears as he spoke to the media straight after the race and will no doubt be kicking himself as the F1 circus moves on to Japan next weekend.

But both Mercedes and Ferrari leave Singapore on a high. For they did what for a long time no one thought possible — they stopped the Red Bull juggernaut.

Red Bull had, until now, won every race this season. Max Verstappen was on a record-breaking winning streak of ten races and there were bets a plenty being made that the team would finish the season as the invincibles.

But they got it badly wrong here. They blamed the set-up of the car and the track which did not suit them. They found themselves going the wrong way during Friday's practice and seemed to spiral from there, unable to correct the wrong, and Verstappen spent the weekend moaning about how undriveable the car was.

He only managed to qualify 11th but did make his way up to fifth, though was never in contention for a podium, even if their race pace did improve in the latter stages. Though it was a weekend to forget for Red Bull, they can still win the constructors' championship in Japan. A win here for Verstappen could have brought double celebrations in Suzuka but the champagne will be put on ice for him until at least a race later, in Qatar.

But back to Ferrari. So often in recent years their race weekends have brought errors: driver mistakes, strategy mistakes or reliability issues. Here in Singapore it was the perfect outing for them. Well, for Sainz at least, though Charles Leclerc showed himself to be the ultimate team player as they look to climb the top step more frequently.

"We've had one opportunity this year to win the race, which was here in Singapore, and we nailed it," Sainz said. "We didn't put a foot wrong all weekend and yeah, there were a lot of moments out there that we were a bit under pressure, and we kept it calm."

It was a thrilling race from lights out, with the Mercedes pair going wheel-to-wheel through the first corner and Hamilton going wide. He made up two places, also passing Norris, but had to give them both back.

Leclerc may well have felt like the sacrificial lamb as, when running in second behind Sainz in the early stages, he was asked to extend the gap between the pair and hold up the field.

As it was, a safety car played its part, as often happens around this tight and twisty street circuit. The Williams of Logan Sargeant crashed but made his way back to the garage with his front wing hanging off and spreading debris all over the track. The front five all pitted but Leclerc was held in his box to avoid an unsafe release and lost two places in the process.

Verstappen didn't stop and was running in second but Russell made light work of getting past him and started applying the pressure to Sainz. His pursuit was relentless but Sainz fended him off and then a virtual safety car with 20 laps remaining as Alpine's Esteban Ocon stopped on track. Mercedes had spoken all weekend about having an extra set of faster tyres and decided to pit their drivers, the only top team who did.

The team said afterwards that their data was telling them that a 1-2 was on the cards at that time. Russell and Hamilton emerged fourth and fifth respectively but with nine laps remaining Russell passed Leclerc for third. A lap later Hamilton was also past the Ferrari for fourth and from there the gap closed; with five laps remaining there was less than two seconds separating the top four.

Sainz knew exactly what he had to do but it would not be easy. He let Norris flirt with his gearbox, keeping him within a second, knowing that the Mercedes pair were doing likewise to the back of his car. It meant they all, except Sainz, had DRS, so no one actually had the advantage of it. But Sainz knew that Norris had the same pace as him. It was the Mercedes pair he had to be concerned about on fresher, faster tyres. As long as he could keep Norris between him and the Silver Arrows, he knew victory was his.

For Russell there was heartache, as he admitted afterwards he lost concentration, leading him to clip the wall and then end up in the barrier after "such a long, physical race".

"When you're so physically drained, mentally drained, and you missed out on an opportunity at victory, and to make such a mistake, you know it is truly heartbreaking." he said. He should not be too hard on himself. Norris clipped the wall in the same place moments before, just not quite as hard, and was able to control the car. Hamilton offered his support to his team-mate.

"We are all trying to be millimetre perfect and it is easy to make mistakes," the seven-times world champion said. "George had been driving phenomenally well all weekend and it was unfortunate on the last lap to end that way, but he will continue to grow and improve and if I can help that — I will be here for the next few years."

This was by far the most exciting race of the season but no one is getting ahead of themselves. Everyone expects Red Bull to be back at full strength in Japan but it does suggest that, going forward, the other teams will be able to push them harder and fight for more wins.

How they finished

C Sainz (Sp) Ferrari 1hr 46min 37.418s
L Norris (UK) McLaren +0.812s
L Hamilton (UK) Mercedes +1.269s

4	C Leclerc (Mon) Ferrari	+21.177
5	M Verstappen (Neth) Red Bull	+21.441
6	P Gasly (Fr) Alpine	+38.441
7	O Piastri (Aus) McLaren	+41.479
8	S Pérez (Mex)	+54.534
9	L Lawson (NZ) AlphaTauri	+65.918
10	K Magnussen (Den) Haas	+72.116
11	A Albon (Thai) Williams	+73.417
12	Zhou Guanyu (China) A Romeo	+83.649
13	N Hülkenberg (Ger) Haas	+86.201
14	L Sargeant (US) Williams	+86.889
15	F Alonso (Sp) Aston Martin	+87.603
16	G Russell (GB) Mercedes	DNF
17	V Bottas (Fin) Alfa Romeo	DNF
18	E Ocon (Fr) Alpine	DNF
19	Y Tsunoda (Jpn) AlphaTauri	DNF

Overall standings

	Driver	Team	Points
1	**Verstappen**	**Red Bull**	**374**
2	Pérez	Red Bull	223
3	Hamilton	Mercedes	180
4	Alonso	Aston Martin	170
5	Sainz	Ferrari	142
6	Leclerc	Ferrari	123
7	Russell	Mercedes	109
8	Norris	McLaren	97
9	Stroll	Aston Martin	47
10	Gasly	Alpine	45

Fastest lap L Hamilton 1:35.867

	Constructors	Points
1	**Red Bull**	**597**
2	Mercedes	289
3	Ferrari	265
4	Aston Martin	217
5	McLaren	139
6	Alpine	81
7	Williams	21
8	Haas	12
9	Alfa Romeo	10
10	AlphaTauri	5



Sainz holds off Norris, Russell and Hamilton in a thrilling, hard-fought final few laps to win and end Red Bull and Verstappen's

Verstappen not on podium for first time in 16 races



Norris, winner Sainz with Ferrari team principal Frédéric Vasseur, and Hamilton

juggernaut

XPB IMAGES/PA



victorious streak. Inset, Russell's crash on the final lap ends his hopes of a podium

Few Vuelta winners have deserved it more than Kuss

David Walsh



In the end, it worked out. Team Jumbo-Visma had three riders who could have won La Vuelta. What mattered was that it fell to the right one, Sepp Kuss. But not before a riveting and uncomfortable race to the summit of Alto de L'Angliru on Wednesday's 17th stage when Primoz Roglic and Jonas Vingegaard thought they were free to do as they wished. The next day they came to their senses, reluctantly in Roglic's case.

Few in the history of La Vuelta have ever been more deserving of the Maillot Rojo that Kuss wore as the peloton flowed into Madrid for the final stage. Softly-spoken, sphinx-like in his expression when pacemaking in the mountains and not merely the most selfless team rider but also the most accomplished. That moment, less than two kilometres from the summit of the Angliru, when he realised his teammates were abandoning him, slips easily into a special category; once seen, never forgotten.

Let us not forget though that the team and Vingegaard understood the seriousness of the 17th stage debacle. The Dane's apology came in his easing down at the end of the following day's race to another summit Puerto de La Cruz de Linares. It's always better to show contrition than utter it and the concession of those nine seconds was reparation. Kuss would have appreciated it.

Given how the race played out in the final week and the sense that the team didn't have a strategy other than to try to keep everyone happy, sight is lost of Jumbo's impressive domination of the Vuelta. They have been the best team in the peloton through the last four years but only now are the results fully reflecting their strength.

The team revolves around its greatest rider, Vingegaard. After a strong early season and a brilliant second victory at the Tour de France, he was entitled to a less taxing second half to his year. Instead, on the very day he won the Tour for the second time, he announced he would be riding the Vuelta. Richard Plugge, the team's general manager had already said that winning the three grand tours this year was a big ambition. No team had achieved this and to bolster their chances they asked Vingegaard to take on the Vuelta.

No one should be surprised that he agreed because he is by nature a team player and though he had shown himself to be pre-eminent grand tour rider in July, he was prepared to share leadership with Roglic in Spain. Champions, by nature, are supposed to feed off their egos. Vingegaard is an exception. There is nothing egotistical about him.

As things turned out, his first week was undone by a stomach bug that drained him and caused him to lose time. Then at the end of that first week, Kuss showed his racing brain by getting into the right breakaway and taking the time that would ultimately make the difference. From that point, Kuss should have had everyone's support. Central to the difficulties that ensued was that Vingegaard and Roglic got stronger in the second and especially the third week, just as Kuss was beginning to feel the effects of this being his third grand tour this year. Imagine being the rider with the most strength on the final climb of a tough mountain stage and not being able to show that. Well, Vingegaard and Roglic didn't just sit and suffer.

They went for their stage victories and got them. At the time this was good for the team and good for the two leaders. Vingegaard explained his breakaway victory on the Col du Tourmalet as a gift to his young daughter Frida on her birthday and a similar attack and win at Bejes as a "get well" message to his teammate and close friend Nathan van Hooydonck who had been involved in a serious car accident.

That second breakaway narrowed the gap between Kuss and Vingegaard and yet it didn't prepare for what followed on the Angliru. The attack on Kuss was initiated by Roglic and that was his mistake. Vingegaard's instinct urged him to follow and that was his, though it was a lesser transgression. Thank goodness the reaction to what happened was so overwhelmingly negative that Jumbo's leaders were compelled to do what they should have been doing in the first, leading. They knew they had to back Kuss and though Roglic disagreed, he still toed the line.

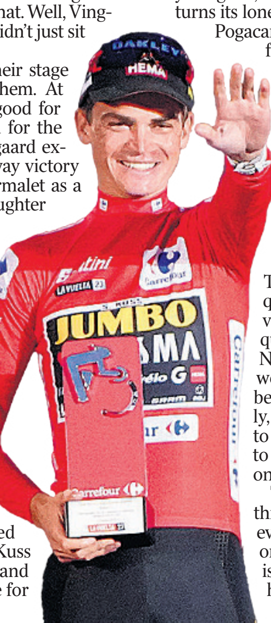
He would have felt aggrieved at not having the chance to win a fourth Vuelta without considering what a rider of Kuss's talent has given up to be an elite équipier. But all that has passed and the question is who is out there that can challenge Jumbo's eminence in grand tours. The danger is that Vingegaard will stretch further away from his rivals.

Ineos Grenadiers have fallen badly away. Remco Evenepoel is talented but not yet consistent enough to live with Vingegaard for three weeks at the Tour de France. That leaves Tadej Pogacar. To borrow from Paul Simon, "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?/A nation turns its lonely eyes to you."

Pogacar has suffered two bad defeats at the Tour de France, both inflicted by Vingegaard. There comes a time when a rider's spirit can be crushed, when he stops believing he can beat a particular rival, and those who have followed Pogacar's brilliant career will hope this hasn't happened to him.

He says he will ride the Tour next year but the question is whether he invests his entire years in the quest to beat his great rival. Nothing less will do and as well as tailoring his season to be at his absolute peak in July, Pogacar would likely need to lose two or even three kilos to make him more efficient on long climbs.

The difficulty for him in this is that he is so good in every race. There isn't a race on the cycling calendar that is beyond him and, indeed, he has won most of them. Still so young, he turns 25 this week knowing that this winter he has got a decision to make.



Kuss savours his moment as La Vuelta winner

Results

American football

NFL
Atlanta 25 Green Bay 24; Buffalo 38 Las Vegas 10; Cincinnati 24 Baltimore 27; Detroit 31 Seattle 37 (OT); Houston 20 Indianapolis 31; Jacksonville 9 Kansas City 17; Tampa Bay 27 Chicago 17; Tennessee 27 Los Angeles Chargers 24 (OT).

Cricket

Fifth one-day international South Africa v Australia

Johannesburg (Australia won toss): South Africa beat Australia by 122 runs

South Africa		(balls)
†Q de Kock c Green b Ellis	27	(39)
*T Bavuma run out	0	(2)
H E van der Dussen c Labuschagne b Abbott	30	(48)
A K Markram c Neser b David	93	(87)
H Klaasen b Zampa	6	(13)
D A Miller c Inglis b Abbott	63	(65)
M Jansen c Abbott b Green	47	(23)
A L Phehlukwayo not out	38	(19)
G W Coetzee lbw b Zampa	0	(1)
K A Maharaj b Zampa	0	(1)
L T Ngidi not out	0	(3)
Extras (lb 3, w 7, nb 1)	11	
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	**315**	

Fall of wickets 1-3, 2-37, 3-80, 4-103, 5-212, 6-258, 7-280, 8-281, 9-281.
Bowling Neser 10-1-60-0; Abbott 10-1-54-2; Green 10-0-59-1; Ellis 8-0-49-1; Zampa 10-1-70-3; David 2-0-20-1.

Australia		(balls)
*M R Marsh c Ngidi b Jansen	71	(56)
D A Warner c Markram b Jansen	10	(6)
J P Inglis b Jansen	0	(4)
M Labuschagne c Phehlukwayo b Jansen	44	(63)
†A T Carey c de Kock b Jansen	2	(4)
C D Green c and b Maharaj	18	(27)
T H David b Maharaj	1	(6)
S A Abbott c Ngidi b Maharaj	23	(26)
M G Neser lbw b Phehlukwayo	0	(2)
N T Ellis not out	9	(6)
A Zampa c Bavuma b Maharaj	5	(7)
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 1, nb 2)	10	
Total (34.1 overs)	**193**	

Fall of wickets 1-34, 2-34, 3-124, 4-135, 5-136, 6-143, 7-174, 8-175, 9-181.
Bowling Ngidi 5-0-23-0; Coetzee 6-0-47-0; Jansen 8-1-39-5; Phehlukwayo 6-0-44-1; Maharaj 9.1-2-33-4.
● *South Africa won five-match series 3-2*

Asia Cup final: India v Sri Lanka

Colombo (Sri Lanka won toss): India beat Sri Lanka by ten wickets

Sri Lanka		(balls)
P N Silva c Jadeja b Siraj	2	(4)
M D K J Perera c Rahul b Bumrah	0	(2)
†B K G Mendis b Siraj	17	(34)
W S R Samarawickrama lbw b Siraj	0	(2)
K I C Asalanka c Kishan b Siraj	0	(1)
D M de Silva c Rahul b Siraj	4	(2)
*M D Shanaka b Siraj	0	(4)
D N Wellalage c Rahul b Pandya	8	(21)
M A D I Hemantha not out	13	(15)
P M Liyanagamage c Kohli b Pandya	1	(6)
M A V P H Pathiranage c Kishan b Pandya	0	(1)
Extras (lb 2, w 3)	5	
Total (15.2 overs)	**50**	

Fall of wickets 1-1, 2-8, 3-8, 4-8, 5-12, 6-12, 7-33, 8-40, 9-50.
Bowling Bumrah 5-1-23-1; Siraj 7-1-21-6; Pandya 2.2-0-3-3; Yadav 1-0-1-0.

India		(balls)
I P K P Kishan not out	23	(18)
S Gill not out	27	(19)
Extras (lb 1)	1	
Total (no wkt, 6.1 overs)	**51**	

*R G Sharma, V Kohli, †K L Rahul, H H Pandya, R A Jadeja, W Sundar, J J Bumrah, K Yadav and M Siraj did not bat.
Bowling Liyanagamage 2-0-21-0; Pathiranage 2-0-21-0; Wellalage 2-0-7-0; Asalanka 0.1-0-1-0.

Cycling

Vuelta a España
Leading final positions: 21st stage (Hipódromo de la Zarzuela to Madrid, 101.5km): 1 K Groves (Aus, Alpecin-Deceuninck) 2hr 24min 13sec; 2, F Ganna (It, INEOS Grenadiers); 3, N Denz (Ger, BORA-hansgrohe) both same time. **Overall** 1, S Kuss (US, Jumbo-Visma) 76:48:21; 2, J Vingegaard (Den, Jumbo-Visma) at 17sec; 3, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) 1min 8sec; 4, J Ayuso (Sp, UAE Team Emirates) 3:18; 5, M Landa (Sp, Bahrain Victorious) 3:37. **Leading British** 23, H Carthy (EF Education-EasyPost) 1:19:25; 31, G Thomas (INEOS Grenadiers) 1:47:59.

Golf

BMW PGA Championship scores on page 56

US PGA Fortinet Championship
Napa, California: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): **199** S Theegala 68, 64, 67. **201** C Davis (Aus) 68, 68, 65; Kim Seong-hyeon (S Kor) 65, 67, 69; J Thomas 69, 67, 65. **202** E Cole 68, 66, 68; M Kuchar 70, 67, 65. **204** C Tarren (Eng) 68, 69, 67.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League Catalans Dragons 59 Leeds 0; Hull 20 Huddersfield 52; Hull Kingston Rovers 12 Salford 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	26	19	0	7	712	354	**38**
Catalans D	26	19	0	7	701	412	**38**
St Helens	26	19	0	7	583	354	**38**
Leigh	26	16	0	10	579	498	**32**
Hull KR	26	15	0	11	533	486	**30**
Warrington	26	13	0	13	577	504	**26**
Salford	26	13	0	13	486	493	**26**
Leeds	26	11	0	15	489	532	**22**
Huddersfield	26	11	0	15	465	532	**22**
Hull	26	10	0	16	464	624	**20**
Castleford	26	6	0	20	323	728	**12**
Wakefield	26	4	0	22	291	686	**8**

Betfred Championship Keighley 22 Halifax 23; London Broncos 10 Bradford 12; Swinton 21 Whitehaven 20; Widnes 18 Sheffield 38. **Saturday** Newcastle 36 Barrow 24; Toulouse 16 Featherstone 29. **Today** York v Batley (7.45). **League One: Promotion play-off** Hunslet 18 North Wales Crusaders 25.

Rugby union

World Cup scores and tables on page 60

Premiership Cup Bristol 12 Ealing Trailfinders 28. **Saturday** Bath 10 Jersey Reds 34; Caldy 26 Ampthill 22; Exeter 38 Cornish Pirates 13; Harlequins 21 Coventry 21; London Scottish 22 Doncaster 24; Northampton 55 Cambridge 5; Saracens 20 Gloucester 29.

Snooker

Shanghai Masters
Final: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt L Brecel (Bel) 11-9 (frame scores; O'Sullivan first): 86-6, 0-134 (134 break), 76-38 (57), 79-48, 0-76 (75), 22-98 (98), 0-103 (103), 98-31, 78-29 (78), 69-44, 63-66 (65), 88-0 (52), 11-86 (55), 36-64 (56), 95-30, 143-0 (143), 120-0 (120), 57-71 (LB 52), 12-83 (83), 67-47.

Tennis

Davis Cup finals, group B
AO Arena, Manchester: Great Britain bt France 2-1 (British players first): D Evans bt A Fils 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; C Norrie lost to U Humbert (Fr) 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 7-5; Evans and N Skupski bt N Mahut and E Roger-Vasselin 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (8-6).

	Ties	M	Sets	Games
1 Great Britain (Q)	3-0	6-3	13-11	129-122
2 Australia (Q)	2-1	6-3	14-6	113-94
3 France	1-2	5-4	12-10	117-106
4 Switzerland	0-3	1-8	4-16	78-115

Group A (Unipol Arena, Bologna): Italy bt Sweden 2-1.

	Ties	M	Sets	Games
1 Canada (Q)	3-0	8-1	16-4	123-100
2 Italy (Q)	2-1	5-4	12-11	121-116
3 Chile	1-2	4-5	11-11	116-115
4 Sweden	0-3	1-8	4-17	93-122

Group C (Pavelló Municipal Font de Sant Lluís, Valencia): Spain bt South Korea 2-1.

	Ties	M	Sets	Games
1 Czechia (Q)	3-0	9-0	18-4	130-100
2 Serbia (Q)	2-1	6-3	13-8	110-101
3 Spain	1-2	2-7	6-14	99-112
4 South Korea	0-3	1-8	6-17	103-129

Group D (Arena Gripe, Split): Croatia bt Netherlands 2-1.

	Ties	M	Sets	Games
1 Netherlands (Q)	2-1	5-4	13-11	131-120
2 Finland (Q)	2-1	6-3	13-9	116-118
3 United States	1-2	3-6	9-14	125-124
4 Croatia	1-2	4-5	11-12	111-121

WTA Kinoshita Group Japan Open
Osaka: Final A Krueger (US) bt Zhu Lin (China) 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

WTA Cymbiotika San Diego Open
Final B Krejcikova (Cz) bt S Kenin (US) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.



Fantastic Fiji rise to the occasion for

Australia	15
Fiji	22

Mark Palmer Saint-Étienne

White gold from Fiji in the mining heartland of Saint-Étienne. Simon Raiwalui's relentless charges produced a display that bristled with intensity, intent and intelligence to bring about the first major shock of a Rugby World Cup which is now coming to the boil.

What a towering game and occasion we got in the Massif Central. Fiji dominated — were the more composed, clinical and clever team — but Australia refused to go quietly and gave themselves renewed hope heading into the last ten minutes when Suli Vunivalu, the replacement, crossed from close range and Ben Donaldson's conversion pulled the Wallabies to within seven points. Fiji wobbled just a little, but held on to douse pool C in fresh intrigue before Australia and Wales clash head-on in Lyon a week today. Another defeat and it will almost certainly be curtains for Eddie Jones and his crew.

The Australia head coach was asked afterwards about the crowd jeering when his face appeared on the big screens. "They should probably have been throwing baguettes and croissants," he replied at the end of a press conference when no amount of bread and circuses was going to placate the contingent from down under.

The men in green and gold gave it everything in those closing stages, but anything other than a Fiji win would have been a travesty. Their first success in this fixture since 1954 was worth the wait both in terms of its construction, and how lustily it was celebrated in the steep stands of the magnificent Stade Geoffrey-Guichard.

"I'm emotionally drained. I'm really proud of the boys. It was a great contest, a great Australian side," said Raiwalui, who was the Wallabies forwards coach under Michael Cheika. "It's a culmination of the work we've done since the beginning of the campaign. We pushed the boys to the limits and they've never once complained. When you work hard, you get the results."

The only minor fly in the ointment was Frank Lomani missing a penalty with the last kick of the match. Had it gone over, it would have denied Australia a losing bonus point. Who knows how crucial that could be in the final analysis of this evenly matched section, but right now it feels churlish to even go there.

Bar a gruesome lineout, Fiji were outstanding, particularly at the breakdown where the behemoth that is Levani Botia had yet another superlative game. The players came together for a song on the pitch at the end, having hit the right notes pretty much throughout.

Waisea Nayacalevu, the Fiji captain, said: "What I told the boys was, 'today is our final'. Today would determine whether we want to go up to the quarters, so the mindset was do or die, do our best, fight to the end and the result will take care of itself."

As the fans were streaming in pre-match, Australia confirmed the heavily-trailed withdrawal of their captain, Will Skelton, who suffered a calf injury in training last Thursday.

The lock's place in the starting XV went to Richie Arnold with Matt Philip coming on to the bench. David Porecki, the hooker, became the sixth man to captain the Wallabies in 2023.

After going behind to an early Donaldson penalty, Fiji were soon into their own attacking stride. Josua Tuisova, the brilliant and brilliantly versatile back known as "the bus", was popping up at stations all over the pitch, his work a combination of handbrake turns and straight-line acceleration down the middle lane. The defence from the men in white was typically ferocious, Marika Koroibete — Australia's Fijian-born wing — and the young fly half Carter Gordon bearing the brunt of some brutal yet perfectly executed tackles.

Simione Kuruvoli kicked Fiji level from the Wallaby 10m line as the contest settled into the high-octane, full-bore pitched battle we had all been hoping for. The pendulum swung back and forth with Kuruvoli nudging Fiji ahead before Mark Nawaqanitawase — who has Fijian parentage — touched down after taking a quick lineout inside the islanders' 22 and combining well with Samu Kerevi, on the back of a fine 50/22 from Nic White.

Fiji, and their supporters, complained bitterly about where the lineout was taken from and were up in arms again after White initially avoided any sanction for a poor upright tackle on his opposite number, Kuruvoli. Following a

Every Rugby World Cup table, result and fixture

Pool A

	P	W	L	F	A	B	Pts
France	2	2	0	54	25	0	8
NZ	2	1	1	84	30	1	5
Italy	1	1	0	52	8	1	5
Uruguay	1	0	1	12	27	0	0
Namibia	2	0	2	11	123	0	0

Results France 27 New Zealand 13; Italy 52 Namibia 8; France 27 Uruguay 12; New Zealand 71 Namibia 3.

Fixtures: Wednesday Italy v Uruguay. **Thursday** France v Namibia. **Sep 27** Uruguay v Namibia. **Sep 29** New Zealand v Italy. **Oct 5** New Zealand v Uruguay. **Oct 6** France v Italy.

Pool B

	P	W	L	F	A	B	Pts
Ireland	2	2	0	141	24	2	10
SA	2	2	0	94	3	1	9
Scotland	1	0	1	3	18	0	0
Tonga	1	0	1	16	59	0	0
Romania	2	0	2	8	158	0	0

Results Ireland 82 Romania 8; South Africa 18 Scotland 3; Ireland 59 Tonga 16; South Africa 76 Romania 0.

Fixtures: Saturday South Africa v Ireland. **Sunday** Scotland v Tonga. **Sep 30** Scotland v Romania. **Oct 1** South Africa v Tonga. **Oct 7** Ireland v Scotland. **Oct 8** Tonga v Romania.

Pool C

	P	W	L	F	A	B	Pts
Wales	2	2	0	60	34	2	10
Fiji	2	1	1	48	47	2	6
Australia	2	1	1	50	37	2	6
Georgia	1	0	1	15	35	0	0
Portugal	1	0	1	8	28	0	0

Results Australia 35 Georgia 15; Wales 32 Fiji 26; Wales 28 Portugal 8; Australia 15 Fiji 22.

Fixtures: Saturday Georgia v Portugal. **Sunday** Wales v Australia. **Sep 30** Fiji v Georgia. **Oct 1** Australia v Portugal. **Oct 7** Wales v Georgia. **Oct 8** Fiji v Portugal.

Pool D

	P	W	L	F	A	B	Pts
England	2	2	0	61	22	1	9
Samoa	1	1	0	43	10	1	5
Japan	2	1	1	54	46	1	5
Argentina	1	0	1	10	27	0	0
Chile	2	0	2	22	85	0	0

Results England 27 Argentina 10; Japan 42 Chile 12; Samoa 43 Chile 10; England 34 Japan 12.

Fixtures: Saturday Argentina v Samoa. **Sunday** England v Chile. **Sep 28** Japan v Samoa. **Sep 30** Argentina v Chile. **Oct 7** England v Samoa. **Oct 8** Japan v Argentina.

Route to the final

QUARTER-FINAL 1
Winner Pool C
v Runner-up Pool D
Oct 14, Marseille, 4pm

QUARTER-FINAL 2
Winner Pool B
v Runner-up Pool A
Oct 14, Paris, 8pm

SEMI-FINAL 1
Winner QF 1
v Winner QF 2
Oct 20, Paris, 8pm

FINAL
Winner SF 1
v Winner SF 2
Oct 28, Paris 8pm

SEMI-FINAL 2
Winner QF 3
v Winner QF 4
Oct 21, Paris, 8pm

QUARTER-FINAL 3
Winner Pool D
v Runner-up Pool C
Oct 15, Marseille, 4pm

QUARTER-FINAL 4
Winner Pool A
v Runner-up Pool B
Oct 15, Paris, 8pm

All matches are live on ITV

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



11
Breakdown penalties conceded by Australia — the most they have given away since 13 against Wales in 2013

69
Years since Fiji last beat Australia, 18-16 at the Sydney Cricket Ground in June 1954

Tuisova scores for Fiji as they beat Australia for the first time since 1954 in the World Cup's first upset

historic win

TMO intervention, Fiji had another penalty which was duly dispatched by the injured party.

It was tight and it was taut, but Fiji were by far the more convincing. They kept milking penalties at the breakdown, not least thanks to the limpet-like excellence of Botia over ball.

Three minutes into the second half, the ubiquitous Tuisova was careering over out left to complete a score that owed everything to the indecision of Gordon who inexplicably allowed a box kick to bounce instead of moving to claim it. Tuisova, as so often, was alive to the opportunity and Kuruvoli nailed the touchline conversion to put Fiji 19-8 ahead. Minutes later, Lomani — who had just replaced the cramping scrum half — ought to have added another three from the tee but dragged it wide.

Jones' response was to remove Gordon, with Donaldson going to fly half, Nawaqanitawase to full back and Vunivalu coming on to the right wing. Amid this reshuffle, we — and presumably Jones — again had pause to wonder whether it might have been simpler just to pick Quade Cooper in the first place.

Fiji refused to yield, and Lomani's penalty gave them a buffer to absorb the Vunivalu score. Fiji lost the try count, but there was only one winner.

Scorers: Australia: Tries Nawaqanitawase (24min), Vunivalu (68). **Con** Donaldson. **Pen** Donaldson. **Fiji: Try** Tuisova (43). **Con:** Kuruvoli. **Pens:** Kuruvoli (4), Lomani.
Australia B Donaldson; M Nawaqanitawase, J Petaia, S Kerevi (L Foketi 66), M Koroibete; C Gordon (S Vunivalu 50), N White (I Fines-Leleiwasa 57); A Bell (B Schoupp 77), D Porecki (capt, J Uelese 58), J Slipper (Z Nonggorr 57), N Frost, R Arnold (M Philip 65), T Hooper, F McReight (R Leota 58), R Valetini.
Fiji: I Droasese; J Wainiqolo (V Habosi 42), W Nayacalevu (capt), J Tuisova, S Radradra; T Tela, S Kuruvoli (F Lomani 47); E Mawi (P Ravai 51), S Matevesi (T Ikanivere 51), L Tagi (M Doge 51), I Nasilasila (T Mayanavanua 66), T Ahiwaru Cirikidaveta, L Tagitativalu, L Botia (A Tuisue 59), V Mata (V Botitu 68).
Referee A Brace (Ireland). **Attendance** 41,294.

Jones gambled on kid – then ditched him

Owen Slot



Chief Sports Writer, Saint-Étienne

So the headline news is that Australia have lost to Fiji for the first time since 1954. It is that Australia have sustained one massive blow here in Saint-Étienne and are down on the canvas and when they are back on their feet in Lyon next Sunday, Wales can knock them out for good. It is that Eddie Jones, the Australia coach, is taking responsibility and apologising for getting it wrong and suggesting that the crowd, who booed him anyway, should now be throwing baguettes and croissants at him. And of course, it is that the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard was an epic, historic place to be yesterday evening.

Yet whatever leavened projectile anyone may wish to direct at the Australia coach, the Wallaby fans will have left here with a far more reasonable question for him, which is simply: what next?

Because the problem here is that it isn't just going to be a case of dust yourselves down, put it behind you and come back hard and strong. It isn't that Jones needs to coach better next week or that they need to spend the next few days repeating ad infinitum their clear-out protocols. The problem is that Jones's Australia didn't just lose this match, they trashed their entire World Cup strategy in the process.

There is a story within the story, here, and it is not exactly deeply buried and it wasn't just about Fiji heroics or Wallaby woes, it was about Jones and his fly half and the faith he has invested in him for this World Cup and the manner in which he stripped it of him in just this second game of the tournament.

When Jones picked Carter Gordon for this tournament, he was elevating a rookie to the front line. It was regarded as one almightily ballsy call — because Jones didn't just promote a young man to the control centre of his team, he sent him there without any established back-up.

There are two old hands who have played most of Australia's rugby at No 10 in recent seasons and that is Quade Cooper and Bernard Foley who are 35 and 34 respectively and Jones decided to leave them behind. Most coaches aim to bring two established international No 10s in their squad; England happen to have three. In his desire to move on from the old guard, Jones didn't even bring one. He was breaking with established thinking, he was charging off in a whole new direction, he was travelling to a World Cup with a basket that had just the one egg in it: Carter Gordon, 22.

So what happens when the egg cracks? But that's enough with the egg metaphor and back to the game.

Wales v Australia
Lyon
Sunday, 8pm
ITV1

My match notes have Gordon being smashed by Eroni Mawi in the 14th minute and spilling the ball forward in the juddering impact of the hit. Then, eight minutes later, Gordon under a high ball but receiving the ball and two Fijian chasers at the same time and being manhandled into touch.

Those were just examples of the physicality that Fiji were throwing at Australia and, funnily enough, they seemed pretty happy to bring a 22-year-old rookie into their party whenever they possibly could.

And then, in the 50th minute, the most significant matchnote of the entire Wallaby campaign: Gordon substituted. Gordon having to make the lonely walk to the bench knowing that every eye upon him understanding that he has been deemed to have failed. In having built Gordon up as the coming man, Jones was now knocking him down. And in that one call from the coach's box, Jones had torn up his whole plan.

The decision to hook a player early is, of course, a hard one for a coach to make. It takes a certain courage of conviction to do so, especially when it is your playmaker.

From Jones' England era, we know that he isn't scared to make the call. Here, against Fiji, you could argue that he got it right. Ben Donaldson, the full back stepped up to No 10 and in the reshuffling, Suli Vunivalu came on at right wing. Vunivalu soon scored a try.

But what of Gordon? That is what Sonny Bill Williams asked on the Australian TV commentary. He doesn't have a Cooper or a Foley to fall back on. He can't go back to the team hotel and talk through his experience with a more senior No 10.

Jones was asked about this after the game. "When you are TV commentator, you're always right, mate," he said. "Maybe I need to become a television commentator, then I'll be right all the time. Look, we've gone with a young team, I've got no regrets at all. We're building a team for the future and we're going to go through some pain. That's generally what happens with an apprenticeship. He [Carter] has got plenty of support."

Just as a quick refresher, the players who Jones hooked early in his England years were Luther Burrell, Teimana Harrison, Nick Isiekwe and Danny Care. Once hooked, those players tend not to return.

Of Carter, Jones said: "He'll bounce back. He's a good young player." However, Jones needs that bounce inside a week.

Of course what we do not know is if Gordon is suddenly dead to him like Burrell was. Does Jones try to rebuild the confidence that he has just smashed? Or does he start on Plan B?

The only alternative option to him is to play Donaldson at fly half. Donaldson came on this World Cup journey with two Tests on his CV and has played once for Australia at 10, against Wales last November.

So this is where the Wallabies campaign stands right now. It is teetering on elimination. It has been banking on the Jones plan that Jones appears to have ripped up. They have only until Sunday, and Wales, to piece something together again. It is an extraordinary way to attempt to win a World Cup.

Thus, when asked last night about the booing that he had received from the crowd, he said he was used to it and "I probably deserve more. They should be throwing baguettes and croissants at me. It's not good enough and I deserve whatever I get."



Jones took full responsibility last night for Australia's defeat

Morgan answers late call to keep Wales in charge of destiny

Wales	28
Portugal	8

Elgan Alderman Nice

Jac Morgan started Saturday as one of ten players in Wales's squad set to sit out the pool match against Portugal. On the menu for the unused was extra conditioning and weights. Towards the end of the pre-match warm-up at Stade de Nice, tightness in Tommy Reffell's calf necessitated a replacement. Taine Basham off the bench? Not a bit of it. Morgan came straight into the starting XV, played 80 minutes and was man of the match in the 28-8 win, six days after the bruising victory over Fiji.

"That's the first time that's happened," Morgan said. "It was a bit nerve-racking being told to go in there last minute. About five minutes from the end of the warm-up they told me, so quite late." Morgan is never one to thump the tub about his ability, so Jonathan Humphreys did it for him. "He's incredible," the forwards coach said.

It would have been incredible if Wales had failed to secure a bonus point against Portugal, given the gap in pedigree between the sides. Yet there is a lot to be said for heart and familiarity, when no one expects you to win, with Wales fielding 12 changes to their XV, and it took until the last play of the game for the fourth try. That is why Wales are sporting relief and delight — the former because of what went on in the match, the latter because of the bigger picture.

After the year Wales have had, there were jokes pre-tournament that they might not even win a game here. Already they have won two. Points perfection was Wales's minimum aim on Saturday, and that is what they achieved. Though Wales were anything but fluent against Portugal, that XV will not be seen again, reverting to the team that beat Fiji, possibly with Dewi Lake at hooker. Yet the fact Wales have used 32 players thus far – only Henry Thomas has yet to feature, because of hamstring tightness – ensures match fitness throughout the squad.

Provided he bears no ill effects of his efforts, Morgan will go again next Sunday evening against Australia, knowing he will then have 13 days of rest before the final pool match against Georgia. "It's going to be a hell of a game," Humphreys said of the meeting with Australia. "There's going to be a lot riding on that. We have got an eight-day turnaround so hopefully we will have a full squad to choose from. A few boys have rested up after a tough Fiji game."

A Welsh supporter would have entered Sunday torn: Fiji, already vanquished, are everyone's second team, yet a win for Australia would be more straightforward for Wales's chances of reaching the quarter-finals. But wouldn't a Fiji win also suggest Australia are there for the taking? Will Skelton and Taniela Tupou are both out with injuries, a huge benefit for Wales that deprives Eddie Jones of two leviathans in the loose and scrum. Angus Bell cannot do it all alone.

Four wins would render such discussions futile, but for now the calculators are primed. Frank Lomani's missed kick in the final play yesterday left Australia with a losing bonus. The result? Wales are on ten, Australia and Fiji both on six. Win on Sunday night in Lyon and you can put the calculators away.

The gap between England and elite remains enormous

Winning first two games hides nothing — **Stuart Barnes** says this sorry team effort against Japan was pure drudgery at times



Chile versus Samoa; the first of Saturday's World Cup matches. Let's call it one for the Chileans, Samoans and purists. Chile gave it their best but it was never going to be enough. The television producer must have been delighted to pick out Springbok stars, Siya Kolisi, Eben Etzebeth and Cheslin Kolbe, in the stands.

Except Kolbe wasn't name checked. The director ordered his cameraman to zero in on the two big men, the South Africa captain and the face of one of the sport's great second rows, Etzebeth. The lock forward as the right-hand man to the boss.

Scroll forward 24 hours and the South Africans took the field themselves in the same Bordeaux stadium. Many of the first choice were rested; Etzebeth was out with a shoulder injury. There he was again, next to the sidelined inspirational skipper for the game's commencement. The two together is quite a statement: "You want to beat South Africa? This is what you have to deal with". An aura bigger than any other in the tournament. Kolisi and Etzebeth. Maybe it's pure coincidence, maybe they are best of friends but given South Africa's willingness to explore any advantageous avenue, it wouldn't surprise me if this brooding bonding for the cameras wasn't a deliberate reminder to the watching fans and players. "You think you can ruffle *this*?"

The second row, we are hearing, is making such rapid improvement that he might be fit for Saturday's crucial showdown in Paris with Ireland although he was expected to miss the pool stages after an early shoulder injury in Marseilles against Scotland. Supermen bounce back quicker than the rest of us.

In 1997, Martin Johnson was selected as British & Irish Lions captain to intimidate the Springboks when the captains eyeballed each other for the pre-match coin toss. The sport is physical, tactical and yes, it is psychological. So then to England against Japan last night to round off the weekend.

Steve Borthwick has his own brooding captaincy preference in Owen Farrell and his stand-in here, Courtney Lawes. What they don't have is that right-hand man. The younger Maro Itoje seemed destined to lead his country but for whatever reason that hasn't happened. But having been immense for the Lions in the drawn series in New Zealand in 2017 and titanic for most of the 2019 World Cup, he should be England's Etzebeth, the skipper's enforcer.

He isn't as imposing as the Springbok but he is athletic at the lineout and brilliant at the breakdown. Yet, in the last few years he has faded as one of global rugby's faces. Before the Japan game he made a few English headlines, saying the only thing that mattered was the scoreboard and to hell with the show. Whilst the one doesn't preclude the other, here was one of England's big beasts snarling. For Englishmen it was a comforting roar.

A famous face was articulating the narrow Borthwick philosophy and turning it into a war cry. There were signs of rejuvenation against Argentina. Theoretically, his presence was central to ensuring the sharp-witted Japan team could not catch England with a few sucker punches.

Actions speak far louder than words, especially on a rugby pitch. It was time for fewer histrionics from one of England's genuinely previous world-class players, time to soar back to the sport's summit and roll back the years to his epic 2019 campaign when he was as good a player as anyone on the planet. Before he slipped backwards and Etzebeth grew, seemingly metaphorically and physically.

He started well, making the first tackle of the day from the kick-off. It's what is expected of the second row. Alas, that was it for the opening quarter. There was also a glimpse of his lineout prowess when he made a mess of Japan's five-metre lineout. From the close-range scramble England scored as he lent his weight to the breakdown after the stolen possession.

Yet where Springboks like Etzebeth have targets to hit courtesy of gainline success, England are in such a hurry to kick the ball away its difficult for an individual to impose. One gainline break in 43 first-half carries is pathetic whatever the excuses about night-time kick-offs; against the best it's not efficient. Elliot Daly performs like another kicker, the rest of his stylish game has been locked away. There is so little in the way of shape and continuity that individuals cannot find their form.

Back to Itoje. When he called a five-metre lineout on the stroke of half-time, the lock called and won the ball but Ben Earl — by far England's best player — made a mess of his pop pass to Jamie George. It summed up a sorry team effort. A game plan to get rid of the ball quite so persistently makes kickers look good or bad. The rest of the team are mere attendants. George Ford's first half in Nice was as unconvincing as his previous first half in Marseilles was magnificent. The rest was drudgery. A fully fit Etzebeth would have been well-nigh anonymous as Itoje in that forgettable first hour.

When Alex Mitchell booted a turnover dead in the 46th minute, the boos began. And they continued. It's not a right-hand man England are missing on the pitch. It is a revolution off it. Etzebeth's management have expanded their plan and are all the better for it. England are reduced to thanking Joe Marler's head as an assist to break Japan's defence.

South Africa's finest would struggle to show their worth under the tutelage of the England management. The England squad would benefit from Springbok variety. Winning their first two games hides nothing.

The world champions are making a meaningful defence of their title, the beaten finalists are living off the quality of opposition — or lack of it so far. The gap between England and the elite is enormous and growing.



Marler and Lawes lift Itoje high at a lineout last night but England were forced to

Free-scoring Ireland buzzing as they prepare for familiar foes

Ireland	59
Tonga	16

Peter O'Reilly Nantes

Ireland arrived back in their Tours base early yesterday morning determined to turn their attention to the collision with South Africa next Saturday in Paris, yet surely still buzzing from all the endorphins racing around their collective system. So much love from so many green-clad supporters in Nantes, where they had just despatched Tonga in some style.

To score 141 points and 20 tries (with just two conceded) from their opening two pool games has surely exceeded their own lofty expectations. Even better, their captain and talisman Johnny Sexton is not merely still in one piece but thriving, having broken Ronan O'Gara's points-scoring record when he touched down for the fourth of Ireland's eight tries.

"If you'd offered us two wins and this many points before the tournament, we'd have taken it, definitely," Mike Catt, the skills coach, said. "We're in a good place mentally, and injury-wise we're in a good place."

Catt was not in a position to provide meaningful information on the health of the one obvious casualty from Saturday night, Finlay Bealham, who departed for a HIA only minutes after replacing Tadhg Furlong at half-time and didn't return. This makes it likely that the third-choice tight-head prop Tom O'Toole will feature in the 23 for Saturday's game, which was never part of Andy Farrell's plans.

Still, you can look at the front row equation from another angle. Ireland will have Dan Sheehan available to play a part against the Springboks, who had lost Malcolm Marx before Saturday's canter against Romania. Consider also the excellence of Andrew Porter, Rónan Kelleher and Furlong on Saturday and Ireland don't look in bad shape.

Their general well-being was best expressed by Conor Murray in the mixed zone on Saturday night, when there were still traces of adrenaline in his language, and in his body language.

"We feel great," Murray said. "We feel fit. Most of the lads are in unbelievable nick. We have a couple of lads with knocks to come back, and when we get them, we will be absolutely buzzing. But we are buzzing already.

"The exciting thing is, we want to see where we can take this team when the challenges get tougher and tougher. So far, we are enjoying it. We are playing good rugby. The big tests are to come but we feel good, we are ready to go."

Murray has mixed memories of Ireland's last game against South Africa when he won his 100th cap but departed injured in the first half. Ireland still squeezed home 19-16, with the Springboks scoring two late tries through Kurt-Lee Arendse and Franco Mostert.

The presence of the South African franchises in the United Rugby Championship means that the Springboks are familiar opponents. That doesn't make them easier opponents, according to Murray.

"They are a difficult outfit to play against, on both sides of the ball," Murray said. "You have seen aggression of their defence, especially [against New Zealand] at Twickenham, so we need to try to navigate around that.

"So yeah, there is familiarity with having been coached [at Munster] by Jacques [Nienaber] and Felix [Jones], but they are the type of guys who come up with new plans and tricky little things in new games, so you have to be prepared for everything.

"But it's an exciting week, isn't it? You'll be buzzing with nerves, of course, but you'd be afraid if they weren't there."

CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES



bide their time in Nice before securing a bonus-point win over a stubborn Japan

This team are willing in attack but not yet classy

Stepthen Jones



Nice

We wanted to see a threatening England last night, a team full of attacking potency. Well, if that was too optimistic for now, then maybe their first try of the tournament. We could not expect George Ford to drop-kick them all the way to the world title.

And we could not have expected England to score a try after a header by Joe Marler, of course — or could we? Finally, we could not expect a promising referee from Georgia to murder Japan unfairly in almost every phase of play — or could we?

One major issue was that England took to the stage in Nice to parade their wares when the early supporters, and anyone with rugby in their hearts, had just re-entered earth's orbit after watching Fiji attack Australia in Saint-Étienne — and attack and attack. It had been inventive, daring, glorious and often, beautifully original.

To take the stage after that was like a drunk coming on with a tuneless mouth organ after a full-blooded Springsteen concert — and comparisons were still fairly brutal when Japan unleashed some rapid moves with rapid ball, pop passes and invention.

Indeed, no one could have complained had they scored two tries as England plodded their way into action. When Rikiya Matsuda charged down a clearing kick from Ford, the line was yawning and the ball bounded crazily away from him. Then Matsuda blew another glorious chance with a silly diagonal kick into nowhere when he had runners outside him,

Then England tried a few driving mauls helped by leniency from the Georgian referee Nika Amashukeli, who allowed them to stop and start and stop and start; they started holding the ball in scrums, but Japan refused to budge.

Then, some signs. Either side of half-time England started steaming into contact, rather than being apologetic. In one move Marler then Kyle Sinckler gave them real momentum up the middle, but England frittered the quick ball.

There were some rangy bursts from the excellent Ben Earl and Maro Itoje — how wonderful to see him on the burst — and then there was a try, a real-life five-pointer, when Lewis Ludlam drove over — albeit after an utter throw-in disaster by Japan on their own line.

CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES



Ford and Steward come together to hold possession as England scraped home

Alex Mitchell's quick feet at the breakdown continued the momentum into the third quarter, and England in patches moved quicker than they have for months. Japan's defence was outstanding, but still, no one was really asking questions of them

Just before the hour mark, Japan were asking questions of the Almighty, England worked Earl away down the right, moved smoothly and encouragingly, but it seemed clear on replay that Will Stuart had knocked the ball on. It bounced to Marler and the great man nodded it on without really knowing it, into the path of Courtney Lawes.

England are at liberty to claim that they all count. Japan are at liberty to regard that key score as ludicrously -unfortunate.

But in the end, the real story was underlying everything. Japan have had a dismal time since their home World Cup four years ago. They played with massive heart and not-so-huge bodies; they tired dramatically but their resistance remained — and they did not give England any easy scores. However, they were there to be beasted, and there are still bigger and better beasts around in this event than England.

The attack? Their eventual dominance was greatly to England's credit, as they kept up the newly-discovered pace in the final quarter. The expert Ford's chip for Freddie Steward's corner try finally took a shock Japan victory out of the equation, and indeed, with Big Billy Vunipola back to batter even harder, it was finally one-way momentum.

The good news is that they accelerated on previous displays and also that Alex Mitchell is helping to speed them along. They still underuse Manu Tuilagi and Elliot Daly; they still make poor decisions when they are almost behind the defence and the back three are not firing.

Perhaps the best news comes from Joe Marchant, an England reject under previous head coach Eddie Jones and a man about to depart good old England, until he gave it one more go. He has probably been England's best back and it was he who motored over for the last minute bonus-point try.

Are Japan a measuring stick for improvement? Probably not. Will Chile be that team, in the third pool match, in Lille next Saturday afternoon? Of course not. My sense is that they are coming to life, and are willing, if never truly classy. But you can only beat what is in front of you, and it was a horribly hot evening.

So few conclusions can be drawn. Except this. England, as yet, are not Fiji, and nothing like it.



Mapimpi celebrates his try, one of 12 scored by South Africa, with Le Roux

South Africa run riot – and then call up Pollard

South Africa	76
Romania	0

Kit Shepard

South Africa showed their ruthless side by hammering Romania and then deepened their resources by calling up the fly half Handré Pollard to their World Cup squad to replace the injured hooker Malcolm Marx.

Pollard, who was the No10 for the Springboks' World Cup triumph in 2019, was originally not selected for the title defence after a calf injury.

However, the loss of Marx to a knee injury has opened up a spot for Pollard, 29, with South Africa opting to bring in an experienced fly half and making do with only one specialist hooker in Bongi Mbonambi. Pollard returned to action for Leicester Tigers last Friday, easing concerns over match sharpness.

"He's been working hard to return to full fitness, and we are pleased that he now has some game time under his belt for his club, and this will allow him to slot back into the team," Jacques Nienaber, the South Africa head coach, said.

"We'll work closely with him in the next week to get him back up to speed and back into the full swing of things, and we have no doubt he'll step up to the challenge."

The announcement of Pollard's inclusion came almost immediately after South Africa's dismantling of Romania in a wet Bordeaux, which perhaps endorsed the selection decision.

South Africa racked up 12 tries but Damian Willemse and Faf de Klerk each missed two conversions. De Klerk and Manie Libbok were similarly wayward off the tee in the win against Scotland on the opening weekend, so Pollard should mitigate this weakness.

The Springboks also hinted during the Romania encounter that they can survive without another hooker. Deon Fourie and Marco van Staden, who are both more familiar with playing in the back row, took on lineout-throwing duties. That South Africa won 15 of their 17 lineouts suggested that reliance on Mbonambi can be limited.

"We are confident with the cover we have at hooker with Bongi Mbonambi and Deon Fourie, and Marco van Staden has been slotting in the position since our alignment camps in February," Nienaber said.

South Africa have new fitness worries, though, as the prop Vincent Koch hurt his knee in the warm-up yesterday.

Romania lost 82-8 to Ireland the previous weekend and four South Africa tries within the opening 12 minutes suggested they were going to ship even more points.

To their credit, Romania only conceded one more try in the first half, before tiring in the second period. Cobus Reinach and Makazole Mapimpi both recorded hat-tricks, while Grant Williams got two tries. Willemse, Fourie, Willie Le Roux and a penalty try made up the rest of the dozen scores.

Ford calm amid the chaos of



Alex Lowe
Chief Rugby Correspondent, Nice

England	34
Japan	12

In Australia, Joe Marler would already be known as the "Falcon" in honour of the bizarre moment when his headed assist for a Courtney Lawes try finally set England on the road to a bonus-point victory over Japan and silenced the boos of frustrated supporters.

It looked for all the world like England had scuffed yet another promising opportunity when the ball deflected off Will Stuart's arm and hit Marler on the head. The ball fell to Courtney Lawes and almost every player stopped, assuming a knock-on, but George Ford urged Lawes to touch down under the posts.

Once again, a week after he had masterminded a victory over Argentina with three drop-goals, England owed a great deal to Ford's presence of mind. Marler had used his head, Ford had engaged his brain.

Nika Amashukeli, the Georgian referee, awarded the try and Marler, a big Brighton & Hove Albion supporter, was credited with England's most unlikely assist.

"The Falcon" entered the Australian sporting lexicon in 1995 when Mario Fenech, a rugby league player nicknamed the "Maltese Falcon", supplied a similar headed try assist. The name stuck.

On this sultry night in Nice, Marler's version proved to be the key moment after England had laboured for nearly an hour against Japan, who were superbly well drilled and far improved from the team who lost 52-13 at Twickenham last November.

The match was in the balance before the converted try from Lawes, via Marler's mohawk, pushed England two scores clear. The sweaty conditions and some committed scramble defence defied Japan and England eventually pressed home their advantage to secure the bonus point, with Freddie Steward and Joe Marchant adding to Lewis Ludlam's first-half try.

England v Chile
Pool D, Lille
Saturday, 4.45pm ITV1

Unless England plan to use Marler for near-post flick-ons for the rest of this World Cup, there is still a huge amount of work to do on their attack. At one stage, their "kick first and think later" approach drew the ire of England supporters in the stadium.

Steve Borthwick, the head coach, will care not a jot about aesthetics but England are still struggling to covert opportunities into points. They move on now to play Chile, when Owen Farrell will be back available.

England need a second playmaker in the team, whether that is Farrell at inside centre or Marcus Smith at full back. Their attacking rugby is at times too telegraphed, at others lacking in shape and consistently inaccurate.

That may sound harsh after a bonus-point win but the first try came from a fluffed Japan lineout and it was only with the game won that England seemed to relax in possession and play with their heads up. Jonny May on the wing did not touch the ball until the 42nd minute.

England's first attacking thrust drew three points for an offside penalty but they were clunky and narrow, wasting a golden platform after their forward pack had mauled Japan almost 20 metres. Alex Mitchell was unable to find Manu Tuilagi with the pass and the Brave Blossoms countered at pace.



Steward scores the third try from Ford's cross-field kick as England finally put some distance between themselves and Japan during the second half in Nice

Borthwick, who coached Japan at the 2015 World Cup, had characterised their rugby, with its quick ball movement, as being like Barcelona's tika-taka football and England were stretched. A high tackle from Ben Earl gifted Japan three points.

Ford then saw a clearance kick charged down as England invited pressure onto themselves.

Rikiya Matsuda, the fly half, was finding space in behind England with angled kicks to touch and then with a dink over the top. Lomano Lemeki could not hold it but England were offside and Matsuda kicked Japan into the lead.

Ford did then turn the tables with a smartly executed kick into the corner. Japan made a hash of the lineout, Ollie Chessum grabbed the loose ball and Ludlam's low leg drive carried him over for the converted try.

Ford then missed his first penalty goal attempt of the World Cup and, instead of going 13-6 ahead, England soon found themselves leading by just a point. May collided late with Lemeki and Matsuda's kick punished his hot-heated moment.

England's seventh attack of the half might have been the most lamentable, although no doubt they will present it as a dry run. Having already demonstrated their mauling power, England spurned the chance of a lineout drive and Earl's pass hit Jamie George square in the face.

Ford partially saved face with a second penalty goal and England initially upped the tempo after the interval, with Elliot Daly escaping down the left before May scampered after a kick from the fly half.

But Kuzuki Himeno, the captain enjoying a huge game, isolated Maro Itoje and won a turnover penalty. With no discernible attacking shape against a Japanese defence so well drilled under John Mitchell, England went back to the boot, ignoring options off turnover ball. It was not only the wrong decision but also poorly executed, sparking boos from England supporters in the stadium.

Did that spark them into life? England pieced together their best attack of the World Cup, releasing Earl on a charge down the right before Marler supplied the headed assist. It was better football than anything Roy Hodgson's England had created here in 2016. That eight-point cushion was now priceless. Kotaro Matsushima and Dylan Riley made carving breaks but the sweaty ball helped England, who forced handling errors with committed scramble defence.

Ellis Genge made a big impact off the bench, his carries helping England down field and Steward latched on to a lovely cross-kick from Ford. Smith gave England an extra dimension in attack and Marchant sealed the bonus point win. Job done thanks in no small part to the "Falcon" although, as a Brighton fan, Marler would probably prefer the "Seagull"'

Either way, England have much to improve if they are to soar at this World Cup.

Scorers: England: Tries Ludlam (24min), Lawes (56), Steward (66), Marchant (80+1). **Cons** Ford 4 **Pens** Ford 2 (4, 40+2). **Japan: Pens** Matsuda 4 (15, 23, 32, 55).
England F Steward (M Smith 69); J May, J Marchant, M Tuilagi (O Lawrence 69), E Daly; G Ford, A Mitchell (B Youngs 59); J Marler (E Genge 59), J George (T Dan 74), K Sinckler (W Stuart 51); M Itoje, O Chessum (G Martin 74), C Lawes (capt) (blood rep; G Martin 63-74), B Earl, L Ludlam (B Vunipola 51).
Japan S Masirewa (L Lemeki 7); K Matsushima, T Osada, R Nakamura, J Naikabula (D Riley 50); R Matsuda, Y Nagare (N Saito 65); K Inagaki (C Millar 50), S Horie (A Sakate 62), J Gu (A A Valu 41); J Cornelsen, A Fakatava (W Dearns 62), M Leitch, L Labuschagné (K Shimokawa 74), K Himeno (capt).
Referee N Amashukeli (Georgia).



Marler's headed assist

It looked as though England had knocked on before Courtney Lawes ran in a try, main picture, but it had actually come off Joe Marler's head, below



Marler: You will not

Will Kelleher Nice

England took a big step towards the World Cup quarter-finals thanks to a Joe Marler headed try-assist, then Steve Borthwick praised his team's brains after their 34-12 win over Japan.

England scored four tries in Nice in their second World Cup match. Lewis Ludlam scored in the first half and Courtney Lawes, Freddie Steward and Joe Marchant went over after the break.

Lawes's try was fortuitous, as George Ford's pass struck Marler in the face after it slipped through Will Stuart's hands. The captain ran in for the try, which set England on their way to victory.

"It was quite a lucky try but I'll take them when they come," Lawes said. "It was a good bit of luck for us. In these conditions you take what you're given. I saw it ricochet off Joe's head so I went and scored the try just in case. I had a good idea it was going to get given.

"We're taking steps forward and hopefully later in the competition we'll be firing on all cylinders."

Marler said he had been practising headers in training. "You won't believe this but me, [Dan] Cole and [Jamie] George, back at the hotel, part of our warm-up was practising headers and it came to fruition tonight," the prop told ITV.

England were clunky in attack in the first half but have now beaten their two toughest Pool D opponents, Argentina and Japan.

"Ultimately the players found a way," the head coach, Borthwick, said. "That's the important thing. The players found a way to score four tries, and our cohe-

error-strewn display

NEAL SIMPSON/SHUTTERSTOCK; DAVID DAVIES/PA



believe us but we practise headers

sion built throughout the game. We felt the game was going to be tight, and the last quarter was when we needed to accelerate, and the boys did that.

"Japan played incredibly smart and unorthodox rugby. You're seeing growth in our attack, and I think you'll see more growth [during the World Cup].

"The attack is always the longest to come because it takes cohesion and this coaching team have only had three or four months.

"We'll have a good debrief. It's important the players enjoy this win. We're looking forward to putting in a good performance against Chile."

England's player of the match Ben Earl said that while Japan exposed some of their flaws, they were heartened that they found a way to win the match for the second week running.

"Credit to them they found holes in our game that we probably needed to find out about at this stage," the flanker said.

"I think we showed today that if we're one or two per cent off in phases of play, teams like Japan will pick you off.

"We learnt that if we take little plays off and are not quite at it physically we get found out. We found a way to work it out. Five points could be crucial down the line. We know how hard we're going to fight for each other and know again when it clicks it's pretty good to watch and good to be a part of."

21
Points scored by England in the final 24 minutes of the match having scored only 13 in the first 56 minutes

Earl also praised the defence, which has conceded only one try in two matches now.

"Hopefully we're putting a bit of a marker out that to score against us, you have to produce something pretty magical and work pretty hard," he said.

England now have a six-day turnaround before they face Chile in Lille. Owen Farrell, their usual captain, will be available. He received a four-match ban in August for a dangerous tackle, but is likely to return to the side despite the form of No 10 Ford.

"What a fantastic squad of players I have to work with," Borthwick added. "We've got strength in depth across the pitch. Our supporters were outstanding again. They pay a lot of money to support this team and we're fortunate to have them."


Borthwick praised his side's hard work

How England rated

Kit Shepard

7 **Freddie Steward (22 years old, 28 caps, Leicester Tigers):** Not at his best fielding kicks but took his try very well

6 **Jonny May (33, 75, Gloucester):** Barely had a touch in first half, made vital tackle on Matsushima after the break

6 **Joe Marchant (27, 21, Stade Français):** Workmanlike running was rewarded with last-minute try

6 **Manu Tuilagi (32, 55, Sale Sharks):** Bent Japan's defence without breaking it. Crash-ball lines are effective but obvious

7 **Elliot Daly (30, 61, Saracens):** Grubbers down the left channel didn't quite come off, had more joy with some pinpoint passes

7 **George Ford (30, 87, Sale Sharks):** Inevitable drop off from previous game, but two brilliant kicks led to tries

5 **Alex Mitchell (26, 8, Northampton Saints):** Quantity of kicks was excessive, quality of them was mediocre

7 **Joe Marler (33, 84, Harlequins):** Vital turnover ended early Japan attack. Solid yet unspectacular at scrum

6 **Jamie George (32, 81, Saracens):** Mixed bag at lineout but among England's leaders. Played 74 minutes

6 **Kyle Sinckler (30, 64, Bristol Bears):** Showed flashes of assertiveness just before going off. No huge impact in scrum

6 **Maro Itoje (28, 72, Saracens):** Forced turnover for first try, but far from perfect at own lineout. Still not at his imperious best

6 **Ollie Chessum (23, 13, Leicester Tigers):** Pounced on loose ball in build-up to first try, looking at home in starting XV

7 **Courtney Lawes (34, 102, Northampton Saints):** Typically heroic tackling, showed value of playing to whistle for his try

8 **Ben Earl (25, 20, Saracens):** As energetic as ever and displayed ability in open space. His 12 tackles led all England players

6 **Lewis Ludlam (27, 23, Northampton Saints):** Crashed over for a try but made sloppy errors in attack and defence

Marcus Smith and **Ollie Lawrence** showed glimpses of invention and should get more minutes against Chile. **Ben Youngs** was a marginal improvement on Mitchell at scrum half, while **Billy Vunipola** looked a little off the pace on his return. **Theo Dan, Ellis Genge, Will Stuart** and **George Martin** were all sturdy — but forward power was not England's greatest need off the bench.

Sport

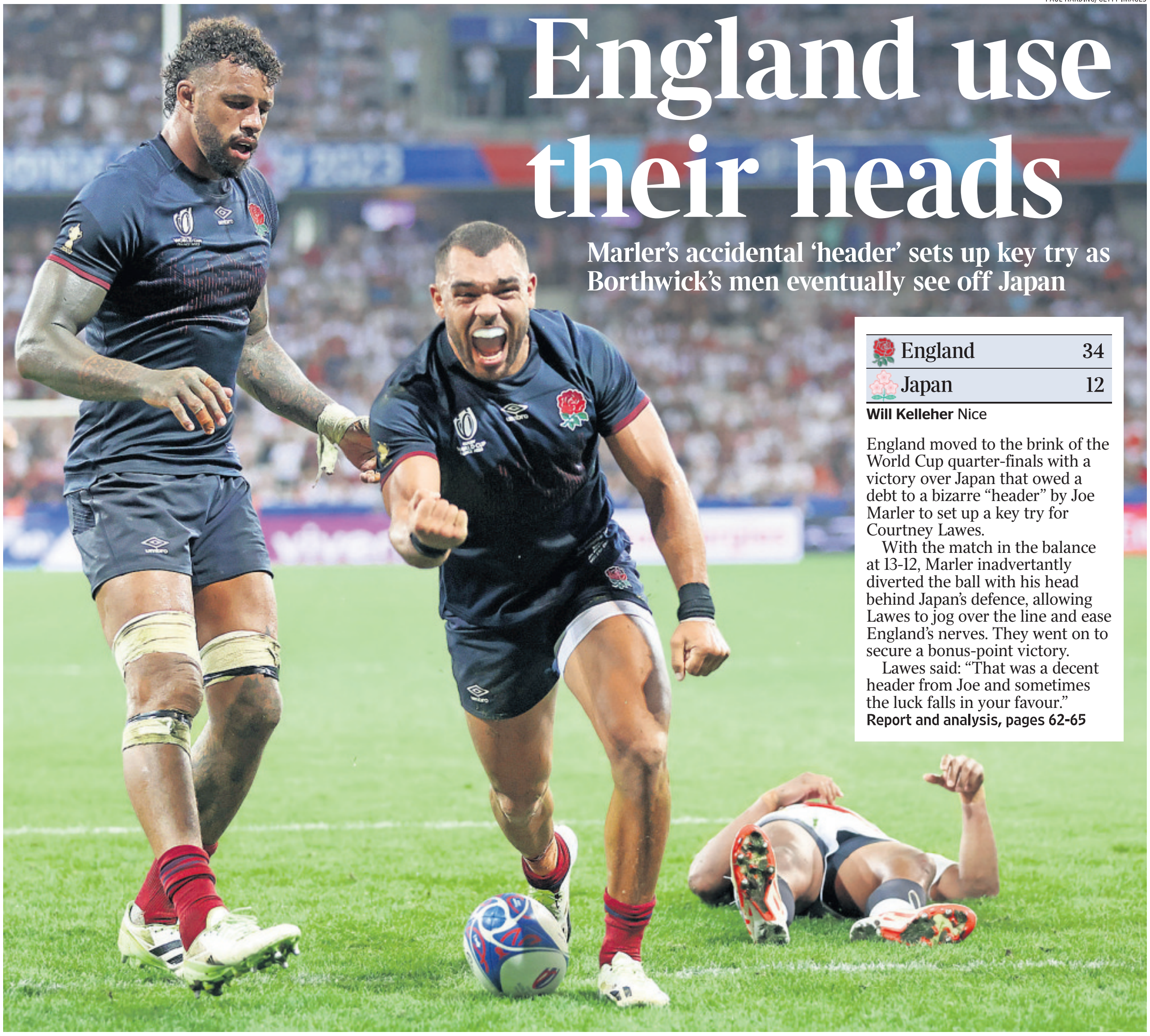
The Game
16-page pullout with all the weekend's football action
Inside T2



Finally . . . a new winner
After ten Verstappen victories, Sainz triumphs in thriller
Singapore Grand Prix, pages 58-59



PAUL HARDING/GETTY IMAGES



England use their heads

Marler's accidental 'header' sets up key try as Borthwick's men eventually see off Japan

England	34
Japan	12

Will Kelleher Nice

England moved to the brink of the World Cup quarter-finals with a victory over Japan that owed a debt to a bizarre "header" by Joe Marler to set up a key try for Courtney Lawes.

With the match in the balance at 13-12, Marler inadvertantly diverted the ball with his head behind Japan's defence, allowing Lawes to jog over the line and ease England's nerves. They went on to secure a bonus-point victory.

Lawes said: "That was a decent header from Joe and sometimes the luck falls in your favour."

Report and analysis, pages 62-65

Joy and relief are etched on the face of Joe Marchant, the England centre, after he dived over to score his side's fourth try against Japan and secure a bonus point

Death chants for Greenwood

Paul Hirst Madrid

Mason Greenwood made his debut for Getafe yesterday to the sound of away Osasuna supporters chanting "Die Greenwood" ("Muérete, Greenwood").

Greenwood, 21, returned to action in the 75th minute of Getafe's 3-2 win, his first appearance since playing for Manchester United against West Ham in January 2022. He looked fit and sharp as he helped his team, whom he has joined on a season-long loan from United, to score the decisive goal.

Greenwood's hiatus from the United team came after he was accused of rape, assault and coercion. He denied the charges and they were dropped after police said witnesses withdrew and new evidence emerged. United said he would leave the club but he is still under contract and they are paying a share of his wages during his loan.

Full story, The Game, page 6

Brook in for dropped Roy

Elizabeth Ammon

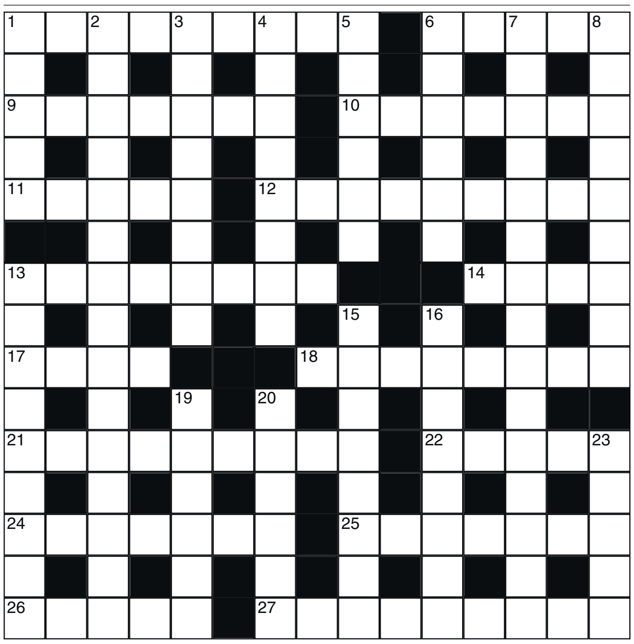
Jason Roy has been left out of England's World Cup squad and replaced by Harry Brook in the final 15-man group that will travel to India next week to defend their title.

Roy, 33, missed the entirety of England's bilateral ODI series against New Zealand due to back spasms, and with no guarantees about his fitness and his modest form this summer, England's selectors have opted to take Brook as the more versatile option who can cover the batting slots in both the top and middle order.

Roy was in the provisional 15-man squad that England named last month — while Brook did not feature — but since then both the selectors and head coach, Matthew Mott, were keen to stress that things could change and that

Continued on page 56

Times Crossword 28,711



ACROSS

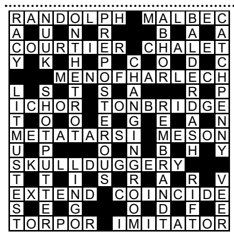
1 One clearing up mess decks with basket (4,5)
6 Madly busy chap I see talking (5)
9 Girl abandoned opera part, close to return (7)
10 Promoted, work was satisfying — returned lively! (2-5)
11 Guide always follows the way (5)
12 Is not the first to discover discharge in kidneys (9)
13 On publication day, beer at New College (8)
14 A female tennis ace (4)
17 Actually withdrawing a pound in bank (4)
18 Two aliens, one with no answer for hard taskmaster (8)
21 Couple like party not to end? Time I'm going (9)
22 Assume one is in position (5)
24 Limit a territory parrot is kept in (7)
25 Old Lionheart spitting out one fruit here (7)
26 Hate Hobart, shivering when temperature drops (5)
27 Collapsed, going by railway? Don't use the line? (6,3)

DOWN

1 Devoutly hopes to hear appreciative remarks (5)
2 Playwright, one who asked for more money, a forger (6,9)
3 Starry team? One that is (8)
4 Disabled, needing oxygen by the sea (3-5)
5 Pictures about one American pope (4,2)
6 Reason I'm confused with vote (6)
7 Is Douglas linked with England? So Donne told us (2,3,2,2,6)
8 The up platform? (5,4)
13 Cocktail to pick up at lunchtime perhaps reluctantly at first, a small quantity (9)
15 Morale so bad in auction house (8)
16 Unusual form of capital Y (8)
19 Sweet little thing in city retreat (6)
20 Express disappointment in feeble books (6)
23 Obsequious type turning up these days for radio programme (5)

The Times Crossword Championship 2023 will be held on Saturday October 21. For further information see times-event.com/crossword-championship

Prize solution 28,704



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No GCSEs, please, we're a private school

Inside Bedales by Helen Rumbelow

Oh, I do like to be beside the Welsh seaside — even driving there at 20mph

Kevin Maher



It's just so unfair. I appreciate having safer roads and cleaner air, but when the achievement of this preferred reality starts to interfere with my own journeys I succumb to an enormous tantrum and demand that someone else sort it all out. This, according to Lee Waters, Wales's deputy minister for climate change, is the defining attitude of anyone who objects to the imposition of the country's new default 20mph speed limit. It is, apparently, nimby thinking. You know? Nimby? Not in my back yard? Or, here, not on my road or built-up district (nomrobud?). Because selfish short-sighted objectors are, according to Waters, the victims of paradoxical thinking — they want better driving conditions but they're not prepared to pay the price.

It's the same for anyone who struggles with the imposition of 20mph speed limits on more than half of London roads, and for Penny Mordaunt, who said that the new Welsh limit was "absolutely insane". These people will not, warned Waters, be on "the right side of history".

I would, however, rather be on the wrong side of history than falling off my motorbike, which has become a daily risk thanks to the new low limit in London. I don't know if Waters, or the London mayor Sadiq Khan, or any of the enthusiastic traffic calmers out there have ever tried to drive a large adventure motorbike through city centre traffic at a speed that never surpasses 20mph, but I can tell you from sweat-inducing experience that it's bloody difficult. The machine wants to fall left and right at tiny roundabouts, it jumps forward in first and second gears, and it lurches along on the straight thanks to the kind of counterintuitive anti-driving that's required to keep it, in speed terms, strictly in the teens or lower. When they designed these heavy 12-valve liquid-cooled three-cylinder vehicles, I don't think the engineers at Triumph were picturing an interminable 90-minute first-gear crawl from one side of London to the other.

It's not much better in the car. Wales, for instance, is my default setting for an all-weather, all-season beach trip (the Severn Bridge is 40 minutes from my front door). And rolling along consistently at 17mph



in a family Volvo can be quite a task to master. Not because the car is built to go faster, but because the streets that I pass are perennially empty. On my beach route I drive through several 20 zones that are invariably deserted of traffic on quiet Sunday evenings. And remaining at that limit, in those areas and at those times, can seem, to quote Mordaunt, absolute insanity.

There is definite kerb-crawler energy about it, and I mostly find myself looking straight ahead and trying to ignore the occasional passing pedestrian, casual dog walker or shuffling pensioner who, overtaking at the inevitable gauntlet of speed bumps, peers into the driver's side and mouths: "Can we help you with something, sonny?" To which I can only shrug and reply: "No thanks, just respecting the rules. Because I'm not a nimby or a nomrobud!"

To make matters worse I got "flashed" last week. Doing mid-to-late twenties in an area that appeared to be a 30 but contained a surprise "School safety zone". It was late at night. I was unfamiliar with the road or the zone. When I was flashed I immediately checked the speed limit and, aghast, groaned with agony (I would've thrown up my hands in despair but I feared being caught on CCTV and slapped with an instant ban for reckless driving). And so, it might just be me, and I'm probably on the wrong side of history here too, but the blanket imposition of 20mph zones all over the country, though noble in nature (who doesn't want cleaner air and fewer accidents?), feels like a national act of slow strangulation, until all traffic everywhere comes to a grinding, stultifying stop.

Down with Mandarin lessons

What can I say? Sometimes, as a parent, you take a gamble and it pays off. It has been a gamble, for instance, for at least the past decade, not to send my children for Mandarin lessons.

No really. You wouldn't believe the amount of passive-aggressive one-upmanship that you have to negotiate at pick-up, as the competitive alpha mums and dads warn you that "Mandarin is the language of the future" and that "It's all about China, Chinese lessons and Chinese culture from now on!"

Well, not any more (and I'll try to stow the schadenfreude for the next 30 seconds), as the government reveals plans to revamp and, in some cases, completely axe Chinese classes in schools because, according to critics, they have become "a vehicle for Beijing to spread propaganda".

Obviously, it would be nice to claim, at the school gates, that I knew all along that Chinese classes were a vehicle for Beijing's propaganda. But still, it feels good to occupy the moral high ground, however unintentionally it was reached.

Tough love actually, Richard

For the first time, I can fully empathise with Richard Curtis. The *Love Actually* creator has revealed that his labour-of-love stage play, called *Mr & Mrs Jones*, has never been performed because his wife, Emma Freud, judged it substandard.

That struck a chord with me. I presented a film review show on Irish television in the early 2000s. On the show's debut night I felt that I had been a terrible host who was nervous, unsure and profoundly unconvincing. The production team, however, said that I was astoundingly good. My friends texted and told me that I was a legend.

When I phoned my mother she simply said: "Well. It wasn't your best. Put it that way." Thank God for loved ones. They speak the truth.

Alcoholic, sexually incontinent, rude: oui, I love Serge!

The Paris home of singer and icon Serge Gainsbourg is opening as a museum. James Marriott, a longtime fan, goes to worship at the shrine

Serge Gainsbourg was a certain kind of Englishman's worst nightmare of a Frenchman: rude, alcoholic, sexually incontinent and extravagantly addicted to cigarettes (five packs of unfiltered Gitanes a day … five! … unfiltered!). This, of course, is the secret of the great man's charm. To anybody who has ever regretted being born on the pallid and puritanical side of the Channel, he offers an exotic vision of what might have been: semi-permanent drunkenness, a bohemian contempt for all shirt buttons above the navel, a career of chaotic offence-giving rewarded with public adulation.

Gainsbourg's house, in the 7th arrondissement — which he lived in from 1969 until his death at the age of 62 in 1991, and which has been untouched since then — has been turned into a museum. I was delighted to visit, for I am a longtime fan. In England this is an onerous thing to be. "The sex noise song guy?" people tend to ask, in reference to his most famous hit, *Je t'aime… moi non plus.* "No, no, he's not just a sex noise guy," you protest. Doubtful frown. "OK. Well he *is* a sex noise guy but …" With a sense of futility you launch into an exposition of the achievements of this astoundingly diverse musical genius: the innocent sweetness of the tunes of the early Sixties (*La Javanaise*, *La Poinçonneur des Lilas*), the experimental weirdness (*Bonnie and Clyde*), the plangent laments (*L'anamour*, *Je suis venu te dire que je m'en vais*), the works of unclassifiable eccentricity (*Aux armes et cetera* is a louche reggae interpretation of *La Marseillaise*, *L'homme à tête du chou* is a concept album about the romantic life of a man with a cabbage for a head). You explain your special fondness for the song *New York USA*, in which Gainsbourg names various of that city's landmarks in thickly accented English and observes that they are tall: "Eempire States Beelding Oh! C'est haut! … Feeerst Nassional Seety Baunk Oh! C'est haut!" It's marvellous to sing along to.

Later, you catch your interlocutor remarking, "Yeah. I wouldn't talk to that bloke from The Times. He just goes on about French sex music." Well, the detractors cannot quite be dismissed. Gainsbourg did not conduct himself with perfect decency or sobriety. He once burnt a 500-franc note on live television in protest at French tax rises and towards the end of his life he had an onstage heart attack while telling an obscene story about Brigitte Bardot and a champagne bottle.

Obviously, this is a deplorable way to go on. Gainsbourg's irrepressibly Gallic mission to outrage bourgeois sensibility means much of his music is beyond the endorsement of a respectable newspaper. Nobody wants to be caught listening to *Nazi Rock* (from the Hitler-themed concept album *Rock Around the Bunker* — although it is, I hasten to reassure readers, a work of anti-fascist satire). And you can't help feeling the Pope wasn't *entirely* misguided in banning *Je t'aime… moi non plus*. There is certainly no excuse at all for the moral and aesthetic car crash of *Lemon Incest*, a romantic duet he performed with his daughter (this being France, it was his highest charting song). Sometimes, his English fans must wearily concede, Gainsbourg makes Roy Chubby Brown seem a model of restrained good taste. Nobody with a back catalogue like that would become a national treasure in England.

But France is not Britain. On Gainsbourg's death, President Mitterrand compared him to the

MAGALI DELPORTE FOR THE TIMES; ARALDO DI CROLLALANZA/SHUTTERSTOCK





Left: James Marriott. Above: Serge Gainsbourg and Jane Birkin

poets Baudelaire and Apollinaire, and he is now comfortably installed in the pantheon as a tutelary deity of the French people. The Maison Gainsbourg is as much a shrine as a museum. I am greeted by a crowd of suspiciously hovering temple attendants who instruct me on the appropriate rites of devotion in rapid, earnest French which I suavely pretend to understand. The effect is undermined when I attempt, with great determination, to get through a locked door. "It's the other door," they eventually explain in contemptuous English.

The whole house is painted black. There are Chinese tapestries on the walls and the floors are covered with exotic rugs. There is a Steinway piano, an electric organ, a collection of creepy Victorian dolls and more than one preserved tarantula. There are ancient mirrors and piles of newspapers and displays of Gainsbourg's records. There are 19th-century Chinese opium pipes. There is a sofa with winged griffins for arms and a chaise longue in the form of a mermaid. The bathroom has a country house-size chandelier which hangs at about waist level. It is roughly what one expected. Gainsbourg lived here first with his girlfriend Jane Birkin and their daughter Charlotte, and after Birkin's departure (partly in protest at all the opium pies and tarantulas) with the model Caroline von Paulus, known as Bambou.

The audio guide is narrated in a preposterous, breathy whisper by Charlotte, who is now 52 and even more formidably pretentious than either of her parents. Her commentary is backed by a piano accompaniment that at times rises to a pitch of almost hysterical melancholy at the most moving moments of the tour, such as when pilgrims are invited to contemplate Saint Serge's plimsolls or his jeans or his collection of shampoos. At one point, the visitor is solemnly enjoined to contemplate a stain on Gainsbourg's sofa (the origin is not specified but you cannot help making various unhappy guesses).

Where other holy relics are meant to cure diseases, you suspect these might actually give you some. Even after what one must assume was a Fukushima-level clean-up operation (astonishingly the smell of tobacco has been entirely expelled) the place has

> **The audioguide invites us to admire Serge's plimsolls**

a compellingly unhealthy atmosphere. It is the apotheosis of seedy bohemianism. I note that Gainsbourg's collection of artefacts does not include an exercise bike or indeed anything calculated to lengthen life rather than to heighten or shorten it. After suffering his first heart attack at the age of 45, Gainsbourg summoned a press conference to his hospital bed where he announced that he would be "increasing his intake of alcohol and cigarettes". Charlotte recalls that her parents would usually get home from nightclubbing at about the time she set off for school.

So you file past the tarantulas and the old LPs and the cracked leather armchair in the study and the naked photographs of Bardot and the naked photos of Birkin and the naked photos of Bambou and think … they don't do it like this at the National Trust. There is little biographical or historical exegesis. Partly because it's probably pointless to explain to French visitors the story of how the poor Jewish boy (b 1928) who grew up in occupied France haunted by regret at his enormous ears went on to become a superstar. But also one feels it has to do with the fact that the Maison Gainsbourg is intended as a religious, not a historical, experience. On some level it is assumed that Gainsbourg is present — the same way God is always present.

It's so intimate. Here is the bed in which Charlotte discovered her dead father. Here is the room in which Birkin (who only died herself this year) used to live. Here is the room in which Gainsbourg and filles used to play video games. There's something morbid and Victorian about it. I mean this in the best way.

Comparing myself to the middle-aged bohemian Frenchmen processing piously around the house with stricken faces and welling eyes I wonder whether in this context I even qualify as a fan. As we frown solemnly at Charlotte Gainsbourg's breathy eulogy to the house's telephone ("such a modern telephone") I realise that there is something obscure and profound and French going on that I will never understand. It is impossible that any British celebrity could be venerated in this way. I mentally shuffle through various candidates for a national shrine: Paul McCartney? Graham Norton? Clare Balding? It just wouldn't work. In a way, I suppose this reflects well on us. But I also feel that we're missing out. How tepid and ironic and English my appreciation of Serge Gainsbourg now seems. Oh, to be a portly Frenchman and to blub at the sight of Gainsbourg's slippers!

Opens on Wednesday. €25, maisongainsbourg.fr

Walkies? No thanks, some dogs like a ride

Why are the British pushing their canines in prams, asks Susannah Butter

It seemed like a normal park scene. A friend was out on a walk with her baby and spotted a woman with the same Yoyo pram (a common sight in that part of north London) — could it be a potential new pal? The woman made conversation, saying how sweet my friend's baby was, and my friend leant over to repay the compliment. But there was no baby in the other woman's buggy. Instead, a fluffy Pomeranian stared back. This woman was using a £400 pram for a dog.

Still associate dogs with walking? How passé — now you must push your pooch. There are sometimes legitimate reasons for dogs to be wheeled around, such as arthritis or the dog not having had its vaccinations yet (although usually the prams would be designed for dogs rather than babies). But increasingly, according to reviews of dog prams on Amazon, "my little boys get tired".

There are 13 million dogs in the UK, up from nine million in 2019/20, and with them come self-styled "dog mums" who will stop at nothing to give the very best to their "fur babies".



If that means protecting their paws from hot or cold pavements, bad weather or other dogs, then of course they will. After all, they may very well have also shelled out for a tailor-made nutrition plan (that makes Tim Spector look lightweight) plus doggy day care, while planning their social life around mutt-friendly pubs, restaurants and even spas, so what's an extra few quid for a pram? It all makes babies seem comparatively low maintenance.

Dog prams range from £40 for a basic runaround to a plush £6,000 canine carriage. Granted, you could buy a second-hand car for this price but would it have shock absorbers so Fido doesn't feel the bumps?

If you thought Paris Hilton putting her chihuahua in a handbag was comical, wait until you see these dog wagons. They're common in Hong Kong, where people promenade up and down with dogs of all shapes and sizes in elaborate pushchairs.

It's a pavement war in the making — with people already breaking the rules by riding ebikes and scooters where they shouldn't, why not add a pug in a buggy into the mix?

Meanwhile, handbag hounds haven't gone away — another friend recently tested the limits of that Uniqlo cross-body bag that seems to fit everything by using it to carry around Ralph, her terrier puppy, until he'd had his jabs.

My friend in the park decided not to make conversation with her fellow Yoyo owner and swiftly wheeled her own pram off in the opposite direction. She's a cat person anyway. But at least when her baby has outgrown her pram, she knows she could always resell it to a dog in need.

Inside Bedales: it teaches only two GCSEs (but pupils do study sheep)

The private school has rejected the 16-plus exams that it says are unfit for purpose. So what are the students doing instead? Helen Rumbelow finds out



As the sun glimmers through the trees of the South Downs we walk through ancient farmland to where the Year 10s are hard at their learning. This isn't just any Year 10, though, it's Year 10 at Bedales, where the rules that govern most of us do not apply. So while I know this cohort well — my own children are either dreading the GCSE onslaught or beyond it in an exhausted flop — the backdrop is alien.

We are in an agricultural building the children have built, joists and all, and they are pushing a flock of sheep through a series of pens. While I am being buckled at the knees by the herd's desperation to escape, I reach down to touch their brown wool. It's soft and luxuriant. My first thought, which I push away, is, "Could it be possible that £42,000-a-year boarding fees for Bedales includes hair-styling for the sheep?" The second, which stays with me, is, "Forcing unwilling sheep through the narrow pens to be weighed and categorised couldn't be a better metaphor for the British exam system at 16."

> "Could £42,000-a-year boarding fees for Bedales include hair-styling for the sheep?

One shaggy-haired 14-year-old is trying to force a panicking creature into the funnel from its back end. "Lead with the head!" his teacher says. "The head is its steering wheel!" This is another idea that stays with me. Once the boy pulls the sheep by its head, it calmly follows. I ask the boy what he thinks of GCSEs. "We," he says, sadly nodding his curls at his fellow teens, a curious, high-spirited species, "aren't biologically made for them."

Good job he is at Bedales, the first school to abandon the GCSE system. Those entering its senior school now, at 11, will take just two GCSEs, rather than the usual ten. The two will be English language and maths, as these are sometimes mandated by employers. For the eight other subjects the children will take courses in traditional subjects and some unique ones, devised by the school — such as these kids with the sheep engaged in a course called "Outdoor Work", a mix of science and animal husbandry. It is the first time that a mainstream school has rejected the national examination system, which goes back to the School Certificate introduced for 16-year-olds in 1918. Daring, necessary and visionary? Or entitled, unambitious and open to abuse? The announcement by Bedales last week — followed by a similar one from Latymer Upper, an independent school in London adopting the same protocol — couldn't have stirred fiercer debate, including at our breakfast table.

As I took the train towards Bedales' 120 acres of national parkland, Katharine Birbalsingh was on the radio, savaging the idea. Birbalsingh is head of the Michaela Community School, as well as an educational ideology that views extreme strictness and heavily tested academic hothousing as the levers of social mobility. She said private schools were shown to inflate grades more heavily under teacher assessment during the pandemic. She warned that richer pupils "will then get the jobs and get the positions of authority out there, having not achieved any kind of national standard".

Birbalsingh and her state school in northwest London are in almost every way at opposite ends of a spectrum to Bedales and its head, Will Goldsmith. Birbalsingh stated that children have "original sin"; one teacher at Bedales tells me that he is driven by "the very Romantic idea about children being fundamentally good", echoed multiple times all day. I've been to Michaela and been impressed by the verve with which Birbalsingh has put her philosophy into practice. Here at Bedales the same is true. What is it to be young, to become useful? Bedales and Michaela are competing utopias.

When the Times Education Commission reported last year it declared GCSEs unfit for purpose, England being an anomaly among western countries in testing so heavily at 16, only to repeat the whole shebang



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COVER AND BELOW: JOHN ANGERSON FOR THE TIMES







Clockwise from left: Sophie and Sienna; Lolo and Wulfie; and Year 10 students studying the Outdoor Work Bedales Assessed Course

when most other countries do it, at 18. GCSEs have also bloated since I did them, the average exam time now 3.5 hours per subject. My daughter had 26 exams in five weeks; halfway through she was a shadowy husk, after years spent being drilled in the points scheme and memorising pages of formulae. Yet while the pressure to reform GCSEs builds — the Confederation of British Industry says they need scrapping; the House of Lords Education select committee is at present taking evidence — Bedales has jumped the gate.

"There's a certain amount of posturing in what she says," Goldsmith says of Birbalsingh. "Which I get. But I'd really like to invite her here and see what she thinks, which would make for an interesting encounter." I mentally make a note to be there if this happens.

"But for me it just shows the way in which some people are so stuck," he says. "She talked about us doing this because we don't get enough nines [the highest GCSE grade], which is such a misunderstanding. It just shows how GCSEs are so ingrained in our psyche, how hard it is to see beyond them to a change. And that worries me because she is an influential figure, and yet change is necessary. She has fundamentally got it wrong."

So why are they doing it? And what would Birbalsingh see if she arrived at this rural idyll? The first thing to note is that Bedales is not what I expected. Over the years it has been cast as the "quirky" school where Lily Allen or Daniel Day-Lewis were typical alumni; children of arty types who weren't too fussed about grades. But it takes its difference seriously.

On Goldsmith's wall is a photo of the Bedales founder, John Badley, similar in appearance to Goldsmith, in his beard and waistcoat. Badley made Bedales a thoughtfully radical institution; inspired by his suffragette wife it became, in 1898, the first co-educational boarding school, ahead of many other boarding schools by a century. There was hard exercise in place of corporal punishment; wide study and critical thinking was encouraged over the authoritarian regimes that were then standard. Badley was among many school heads with deep antipathy towards external examinations and the centralised government control represented by the School Certificate. For him, prizes created distorting effects.

"If the parent's wish or necessity is that the boy should carry off these prizes at all hazards," Badley wrote, "I would rather not have him."

Given how many of Badley's visions were ultimately adopted by the mainstream, will this one also prove true? In the spirit of Badley, Bedales moved in 2006 to swap half of GCSEs with "Bedales Assessed Courses" (BACs), their own creation. These are assessed partly by "coursework" that used to be part of GCSEs but was ultimately scrapped as being too open to abuse by pushy parents. However, pupils are also assessed by exams, vivas, project work and teamwork. The resulting grades are given on a 1-9 scale, the same as GCSEs, and moderated by external examiners (albeit paid for by the school).

We speak with students in the school's library, boned in wood like the hull of a ship and one of the finest Arts and Crafts buildings in the country. Sienna, a 16-year-old Year 12 at the school, did five GCSEs and four BACs, and wishes the school could have discarded the GCSEs in time for her. "With GCSEs it's based on learning the mark scheme," she says. "Especially with sciences, as some of those things I didn't know why it was, I just knew that I had to say it was and that would get me marks. I didn't have the space to understand."

Sienna's friend Sophie nods vigorously at this. For her, the BACs are more akin to the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is in place as part of the English school curriculum at A-level — an extended research paper assessed by teachers then independently moderated. Sophie is obsessed with fungi, a passion she pursues by cataloguing what she finds in the school grounds. "I found some milky cone caps the other day — not psychedelic or anything," she says, laughing. Had she studied a BAC for biology she knows that she could have pursued this interest, which she is now researching for an EPQ. "The GCSE in biology was ticking boxes," Sophie says. "You have to do so many past papers to understand exactly what they want from you. Otherwise you can just shoot in the wrong direction, even though you know what you are talking about and are still right. It's really frustrating."

Sienna and Sophie say that GCSEs aren't strong at developing skills needed by employers — which are more digital, research-based and collaborative. Wulfie and Lolo agree — in music, Wulfie is presenting as part of his grade his analysis of the work of Van Halen in a PowerPoint, including his own illustration of key motifs on the guitar.

If they could devise a school system, what would it be? Wulfie says that for most of human evolution 15-year-olds would not be sitting most of the days at a desk, but exploring, whether intellectually or literally. "It's just a hard time to have exams," Wulfie says. "If you think really a long way outside the box, you could just get rid of exams at 16 and have a more in-depth systematic process with coursework, then exams at 18. But that's very different to what we have now."

When I sit in on a BACs history lesson it seems similar to a GCSE equivalent, except that the teacher's coverage of the Russian Revolution zips back and forth with echoes in President Putin's regime. This wouldn't just be unorthodox in a GCSE history class, it would be considered a waste of everyone's time. However, the history teacher tells me that the students appreciate interesting digressions as they know it could spark an original insight for their own research papers.

I speak to James Bidwell and his wife, Sophie, who have five children either at or graduated from Bedales, including one who will be affected by the changes. They tell me about one of their daughters, who did well in her exams and is now in her twenties, but of all her academic work the only thing she still gets fired up about is a project she began on her own initiative to build a telescope. "She still talks about that telescope," James says wistfully. "I think we are not very good at new things in the UK. We, as an island nation, have the intellectual capacity and calibre to change, but we keep getting stuck."

So that's the hard sell. I sit back down with the head to put to him the negatives. GCSEs at 16 do provide information to the students as to which subjects to apply to study further at college. They are also used as a filter by some universities, and by the government, to compare and judge schools.

First off Goldsmith says that their BAC marks are similar or below that which students get in their GCSEs. Also, he deliberately has not sought official status for the BACs — it is a "low stakes" exam, unlike A-levels. That means that there is no pressure to manipulate the system.

"Your point about middle-class people gaming it, it's not about that," he says. "It's about us giving our students actually a better education, without the very distractions and distortions that come from externally assessed high-stakes exams. We deliberately didn't want to be part of that at 16, because if you take that away you actually get better learning.

"When parents send their children to us from North America or continental Europe, they say, 'We think it's an excellent school.' They don't see it as something radical."

What about universities using GCSEs as a filter? Goldsmith has just come out of a session with the House of Lords education select committee on this issue. He was asked what his single change would be if he could wave a magic wand. One would be that universities only selected candidates after A-level results, making GCSEs irrelevant.

"In some ways our university system is the tail that wags the educational dog," he says. "But another thing I would wish is for it to cap the number of hours that students are allowed to be assessed for. Even just for their mental health, but also for us just to take stock of what we're putting on 16-year-olds."

Our system, he says, is closer than ever to the east Asian model of brutal and endless testing — "That's the pathway we are going down, and we need to turn back."

One English teacher tells me that there was a surge of applications for staff posts at Bedales when they began BACs nearly 20 years ago. "They come because they want to create a utopia," he says. "Of course, you always fail to create a utopia, by definition."

Is this place an English utopia? Answers marked however you like.

> **It's not about gaming it, it's about giving our students a better education**

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

I suffer from health anxiety and always think it's cancer — how can I rationalise my fears?

Q I'm worried that I suffer from health anxiety. It's starting to dawn on me that my reaction to all ailments is to catastrophise and think it must be cancer or something serious.

I never used to be like this, but now I'm middle-aged and menopausal there always seems to be something. Feeling excessively tired, or waiting for test results of a mammogram, or any symptom that could have multiple benign explanations, all take on loaded significance. I can't stop thinking about them or googling my symptoms and wanting reassurance from the GP that never seems to be enough.

I think it's partly the responsibility of parenthood and my job — I'm a practice nurse, so I witness all sorts of medical problems. And my parents and friends are all older now and some have had genuine health scares.

How do I rationalise my fears and get peace of mind back that a serious illness should be the last concern, not the first?

Camilla

A What you struggle with has many names — health anxiety, hypochondriasis, illness anxiety disorder or somatic symptom disorder — all describing a person who is chronically anxious about their health. Health anxiety can be tiring and stressful, and it is clear that while you recognise it is not rational you can feel powerless to manage it.

Your self-diagnosis is correct. You mention some of the core features of health anxiety: constant health-related intrusive thoughts, catastrophisation, anticipatory anxiety, excessive information searching, reassurance seeking.

Other symptoms include excessive body checking or scanning and avoidance of activities, people or places that become associated with being ill. This can be a debilitating condition, more so for you, a nurse.

Health anxiety shares features of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) — experiencing a body sensation triggering obsessive intrusive thoughts relating to serious illness, causing acute anxiety, followed by compulsive behaviours (such as compulsive online searches) aimed at reducing that anxiety by trying to obtain certainty related to the health fear.

However, the perverse aspect of this condition is that the compulsive behaviours actually fuel your obsessive thinking — health anxiety is a self-feeding monster.

Googling your perceived symptoms and reassurance seeking (from the GP) do nothing more than reinforce a belief that something is wrong and endless online searches for symptoms maintain the cycle of OCD by offering multiple possibilities, all terrifying, thus maintaining a catastrophic belief that you are probably very ill. I can understand that being a nurse and working in a clinical setting makes this condition even more challenging.

How we think affects how we feel and how we behave. What drives our thoughts are our beliefs, which for someone with health anxiety can be described as false and distorted: the belief that we can know the status of our health with absolute certainty (we can't), that all symptoms and sensations indicate serious illness (they don't) and will always have a specific cause that can be determined (not true).

The hyperfocus on perceived "symptoms" exaggerates those symptoms (studies show that if we focus on a pain, the pain experience will be worsened). The symptoms of anxiety — shortness of breath, stomach upset, racing heartbeat — can be misinterpreted as further evidence of physical disease.

The treatment for health anxiety is exposure and response prevention: a process where you confront your fears about your health (exposure) and do not do the compulsions (response prevention) while using anxiety management techniques that will enable you to approach and remain in the presence of your fear.

At the same time, you will mindfully choose not to engage in compulsions and instead manage the acute anxiety in a healthy way. This disconnects the anxiety and the obsessive intrusive thoughts and so, in time, these thoughts become tolerable and irrelevant, requiring no response.

Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) addresses the aforementioned underlying dysfunctional beliefs, enabling the ability to accept uncertainty about the meaning of random body sensations (ie developing distress tolerance).

If I was working with you we would trigger your obsessive thoughts (for example by getting you to body scan and notice a bodily sensation) and use breathing and mindfulness techniques to manage the resultant anxiety that will arise from resisting your compulsions (for example the compulsion to seek reassurance or start online searching for possible conditions).

You would learn that being aware of bodily sensations is not aversive and, instead, if those sensations trigger any anxiety and related intrusive thoughts, you can note them as they appear and ignore them, distract yourself from them, and breathe your way through the anxiety until they disappear.

Accepting the presence of unwanted thoughts does not mean accepting the truth of the content of those thoughts. Remember, some thoughts do not reflect reality and so we mustn't believe everything we think.

> **"Googling symptoms will only make your fear worse**

However, as well as exploring all resources available to manage and overcome your health anxiety, that you are menopausal is extremely important. It is well established that in perimenopause and menopause, anxiety can feel extreme and we overthink as well as developing sleep problems, low mood, fatigue, short-term memory loss, mood swings and decision-making difficulties.

In perimenopause and menopause, falling levels of oestrogen changes brain function. Studies have shown that oestrogen is linked to serotonin (the "happy hormone") and cortisol (the stress hormone) in the brain. As you rightly point out, other issues can also impact because the timing of menopause may coincide with other "time of life" stresses such as relationship issues, care of children or concerns about ageing parents.

During the menopause transition there are a variety of ways to manage these well-established mood challenges and other symptoms. Evidence indicates that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is better at improving mood and anxiety than antidepressants, and for some both approaches are helpful. Counselling and CBT help many to break the vicious cycle of hot flushes and anxiety and also, as described earlier, is evidence based for the treatment of health anxiety.

As well as reviewing your menopause management with your GP, other practical techniques can help. To begin with take good care of yourself — get enough sleep and exercise, eat a healthy diet, limiting sugar and processed foods. Learn and practise relaxation, breathing, meditation and mindfulness techniques (liverpoolft.nhs.uk).

To address the intrusive thoughts you could try a CBT technique where you write a list of the anxieties that you have about your health, and next to each write down how a non-anxious friend might interpret the situation.

To find a way to settle your anxiety use a grounding technique such as the 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 method, to focus attention on: 5 things you can see; 4 things you can hear; 3 things you can feel; 2 things you can smell or taste; and 1 thing that makes you feel grateful. Alongside this, practise taking long, slow, deep breaths. You can also speak to your GP or self-refer for talking therapy at nhs.uk.

Finally, there are self-help guides (web.ntw.nhs.uk) and I also recommend the excellent book *Overcoming Health Anxiety 2nd Edition* by Dr Rob Willson and Professor David Veale. I wish you well.

If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron @thetimes.co.uk



Good

As he aims for the Strictly glitter ball, Les Dennis tells Michael Odell why you shouldn't underestimate the older contestants

One day, when Les Dennis was a 13-year-old boy growing up in Liverpool, he walked in on his mum and dad having sex. He'd come down before bedtime to get a note for school the next day and there they were on the sofa, going at it. For some kids this might just be an embarrassing "get a room" moment but Dennis was traumatised.

"They used to row and not speak for days, which meant I was the go-between," he says. "Then suddenly it would be OK — because they'd have what we call 'make-up sex'. But that was news to me."

Even now, aged 69, he fears that it has made him a bit of a prude. It meant he was "uncomfortable" when his second wife, Amanda Holden, stripped off for soft-porn magazines like FHM and Loaded. He doesn't even like walking hand-in-hand with his third wife, Claire Nicholson, a life coach.

"Seeing what I saw and how it affected me is something I have to watch," he says. "Claire gets frustrated walking down the street because I'll drop her hand and she'll say, 'Oh no you don't.' Or, if she asks me to dance, I won't. I'll just say, 'I'm doing a bit of dad dancing.'"

All of which rather raises the question: how is Dennis going to cope with all the intimate thrusting, lifting and clutching that awaits him as a contestant on *Strictly Come Dancing*?

"I am genuinely hoping that learning intimacy with a stranger will mean I will gain the confidence to dance with my wife," he says. "My pro says I've really got to embrace that goal. She says I've got to stop saying 'when I'm voted off in week two' because she reckons I'll manifest that and it will happen. So what I'm manifesting instead is 'when we get to Blackpool' [where the show traditionally decamps for a week during the latter stages] and 'when we win'. I really don't want people to say, 'Oh Les was funny this week, let's keep him in.' I want them to vote for me because I'm getting better at dancing. Good dancing is sexy and who doesn't want to be good at that?"

A comedian, impressionist, singer and actor, Les Dennis has already enjoyed an extraordinary career intersecting with everything from post-war music hall to reality TV. He was only 20 when Arthur Askey, the wartime comedian, gave him a "ten" and he won the TV talent show *New Faces*. Bob Monkhouse, the Seventies

dancing is sexy. I want to master it



> I want this to give me the confidence to dance with my wife

stalwart, predicted his charm would take him far and it was his fellow Liverpudlian Jimmy Tarbuck who asked him, "Are you ready to go on?" after Tommy Cooper suffered a heart attack onstage during a live TV broadcast from Her Majesty's Theatre in London in 1984 (Dennis and his comedy partner Dustin Gee did their routine with Cooper lying dead behind the curtain).

It was his 15-year tenure as the host of the TV game show *Family Fortunes* that made him a household name but Dennis found himself catapulted from light entertainment into post-modern confessional formats when his life and career were in crisis.

After his split from Holden in 2002 (Holden, 17 years his junior, had a much-publicised affair with the actor Neil Morrissey in 2000), he made a notorious appearance on the reality show *Celebrity Big Brother*. After seeking solace from the show's resident chickens the tabloids dubbed him Les Miserables and to salvage his career from that disaster, he then appeared as a broken, suicidal version of himself in an episode of the show *Extras* written especially for him by its star Ricky Gervais. "I'm in awe of Ricky Gervais so when he asks, 'Will you play a twisted demented version of yourself?' you do it," he says.

Dennis certainly wasn't anxious about intimacy in *Extras*. He stripped naked and faked sex with a young blonde, Holden-alike actress while uttering his *Family Fortunes* catchphrase: "If it's up there I'll give you the money myself!"

"Ah, that's the performer in me," he explains. "Leslie Heseltine [his original name] is shy. But Les Dennis opens the fridge, sees the light come on and will automatically do a 20-minute routine. He's always there. And when *Extras* happened my career was on its arse so I wanted to show that I could laugh at myself. Ricky even offered me an arse double but I said no, let's do this properly."

The split with Holden was painful. He fought for the marriage even as she continued the affair. In the *Extras* version Dennis says he thought about ending it all and in reality he did need therapy.



Top: Les Dennis with his Strictly dance partner, Nancy Xu. Above: with his wife, Claire Nicholson

"Yeah but I never once in all that time felt suicidal," he says. "Ricky Gervais walks a fine line with his comedy and he did with the scene."

And so here he is on the verge of another unlikely television appearance. Dennis is about to turn 70, until quite recently he was pre-diabetic and he has a replacement knee. So what is *Strictly* meant to prove?

"I want to get back on TV because when people come up to me for a selfie the kids always go: 'Who's that?' Well, after *Strictly* they'll say: 'Oh that's who it is'. It's a chance to get back on primetime in what is a wonderful light entertainment show, the sort of show in which I started out. So I'm wearing a Fitbit, walking 10,000 steps a day, lifting weights and doing Michael Mosley's keto diet. I reckon me and Angela Rippon [at 78 the former newsreader is the show's oldest contestant] will show everyone a thing or two about what the seniors can do."

Dennis never stops working. He has appeared on stage in the musicals *Only Fools and Horses* and *42nd Street* and is in talks to appear in his first Shakespeare production. In his 2008 memoir *Must the Show Go On?* he admitted it's fear that drives him.

"The story of Stan Laurel ending up forgotten living in a tatty motel terrified me," he says. In the book, Dennis said he feels sick when he meets people and they can't quite remember his name.

But this search for validation has sometimes got him into big trouble.

We are talking via Zoom from his older sister Marg's house in Liverpool, near where Dennis grew up. He's back, appearing in *42nd Street* at the city's Empire theatre, just down the road from where his younger sister Mandy lives.

It's amazing he has rebuilt these family ties because as his career took off, by his own admission, he became snooty about his working-class roots. One time, during a notorious christening party, Mandy took a swig of wine straight from a bottle and Dennis remonstrated with her.

"Mandy, have a drink by all means but please use a glass. I've got a lot of friends here," he said.

The moment triggered a rift that went on for years.

"The family fell apart and it shouldn't have done," Dennis says. "I regret that but I've got them all back now. You learn: there is nothing as important as your family. They've been my rock through some very hard times."

Dennis went back to Liverpool to film a segment for *Strictly* and walked past the house he was born in at 83 Chesterton Street, Garston. Someone came out. Dennis got to go inside for the first time since he was two years old.

"It was an incredibly moving moment because the removal van outside is my earliest memory," he says. "Sometimes the stars align — the universe made that happen for me."

Dennis has had a lot of therapy, to the point where he can even see the positives from his failed relationships. It was the actress Sophie Aldred (with whom he had an affair while married to his first wife, Lynne Webster) who encouraged him to reconcile with his family.

"We invited my mum and Aunty Pat over and Sophie cooked them pasta," he says. "They both sat there and said: 'But we don't eat pasta…'"

Both Dennis's parents died young. His mother in 1977, aged 50, of cancer and his father, aged 66, of a heart condition. It was Holden who encouraged him to buy a headstone for the grave.

"The stonemason got the date of death wrong — he put 1997 instead of 1977 [for my mum], so we got an extra 20 years with her," he says with exquisite "boom-tish" timing.

He is now happily married to Nicholson, who he met at a charity ball in 2005. When the band struck up Glenn Miller's *In the Mood* she came over and asked Dennis to dance. Once again the odd duality of his personality was on display. Dennis thought she wanted an autograph so he signed a picture for her and thought nothing of it.

"I'm afraid I went into celeb mode," he says.

But no, despite being 15 years Dennis's junior, she was interested and they married four years later. With some persuasion he agreed to start another family (Dennis has a son, Philip, now 43, from his first marriage). He and Nicholson are parents to Ellie, 15 and Tom, 12.

"I love being a dad again," he says. "Finding the school shoes, getting the kids out the door in the morning, it's so different from life on the stage. It's real."

Dennis is older than the other dads at school and he knows his children worry about it. When Tom was five years old he asked his dad: "How old will I be when you're 100?"

"He obviously thinks about my age and so do I because I'd lost both parents by the time I was 30," says Dennis. "So that's another reason for doing *Strictly*. To get fit, to be there for them."

He's been working on his fitness for a few years, falling back on his comedy superpowers when it has failed him. If any anecdote captures Dennis it's this one — sweet and funny but with an undertone of sadness. A few years ago he attended Tom's sports day at The Ryleys School in Alderley Edge near Manchester where a lot of sports stars and their families live. Tom wanted him to run in the dads' race but when Dennis got set on the starting line he saw he was up against some serious competition; one young dad was even wearing running spikes.

"So when the gun went I just turned round and ran in the opposite direction to everyone else," Dennis says with a chuckle. "It got a laugh but afterwards Tom found me and, looking very sad, said: 'Why didn't you run for me, Daddy?' and that was just heartbreaking. The truth is, I didn't want to be embarrassed; I didn't want to lose. And that's kind of a feeling I've had all my life."

***Strictly Come Dancing* is on BBC1**

It hurts to talk about Stephen

The murder of his brother in 1993 profoundly affects his role as a father, Stuart Lawrence tells Michael Odell

It's now 30 years since Stephen Lawrence was murdered by a gang of racist white youths at a bus stop in Eltham, south London. His younger brother Stuart, 16 at the time, tries not to dwell on it; he just gets on with his life. He is married with a 12-year-old son. He was a teacher for 15 years and is now an author and public speaker. And yet sometimes even the littlest things will take him back.

As he puts it, "1993 was a pre-digital world. These days every street, including Well Hall Road where it happened, has CCTV. London buses too — front and back. And most people carry a smartphone as well so, yeah, sometimes I catch myself thinking if an attack like that happened today it would all be picked up. After all, smartphone cameras picked up the murder of George Floyd. So could it have made a difference?"

More important than cameras, he says, are "people with the courage to do the right thing". Lawrence praises the ex-girlfriend of Thomas Cashman — the Liverpool drug dealer who shot dead nine-year-old Olivia Pratt-Korbel in 2022 — for giving evidence against him, despite receiving death threats.

"The witness was so brave. She spoke up not where it's easy, like on social media, but in front of a jury. Without that, what might have happened? But in Stephen's case all these things are 'what ifs'. And if there's one thing I've learnt it's that I can't afford to live in a world of 'what ifs'."

Lawrence, now 46, shared a bedroom with the brother he called his "superhero". After the murder the bungled police investigation made it one of the most notorious crimes of the past 30 years. Only a change in the law regarding "double jeopardy" (so that suspects can be tried twice for the same crime if new evidence comes to light), and the determination of the Lawrence family, led to the conviction of two men for the crime in 2012.

Lawrence is talking to me via Zoom from his home in south London. He's been coaching his son Theo at football. The fate of Stephen is another thing he is trying to teach him about. The 30th anniversary of his brother's death was especially hard. Theo didn't want to go to the memorial service attended by the Labour leader Keir Starmer, the head of the Metropolitan Police Mark Rowley, and the London mayor Sadiq Khan.

"Like any child, he was a bit 'do I have to go?' I didn't want to go into the gruesome details of the fateful night with him but he now knows his uncle died and is beginning to understand that it has come to mean something nationally. He knows that as a family we are lucky Stephen is remembered and that some families are not so lucky. I'm not sure anniversaries change much on their own — but he knows we have to try and improve things for the next generation."

AMIT LENNON FOR THE TIMES MAGAZINE





Left: Stuart Lawrence. Above: Stephen Lawrence

Lawrence is warm and easy-going. We chat about his beloved Arsenal and the threshold of rudeness at which a parent can confiscate a PlayStation from a child. I could be chatting with a friendly face in a pub. But events 30 years ago mean he doesn't always get to be a regular bloke.

"At school I didn't even know what racism was," he says. "There were two black pupils, one Chinese, one Indian and one dual heritage. The only way you were judged was: 'Are you good at football or not?' I was a happy kid who thought I'd get a regular job, lead a happy but, to be honest, an unremarkable life."

All that changed at around 11pm on that April night in 1993, when Stuart answered the door to a concerned neighbour, who reported that his older brother Stephen had been in a fight at a local bus stop. His mother Doreen and father Neville went to investigate while he looked after his younger sister Georgina. When his parents got home, the scene was terrible. His grief-stricken mother was put under sedation and the house filled with people and noise. Yet, incredibly, the next morning Stuart Lawrence still got dressed and went to school. In the playground he heard mention of the six names from a local racist gang. When he got home that afternoon the same names had been anonymously posted through the Lawrences' letterbox, left on a note under the windscreen of a police car and reported by several callers to a police hotline. It took 19 years to convict two of the suspects. Anniversaries of the murder and his brother's birthday are still tough and the public naming of the sixth suspect (Matthew White) in June this year took its toll too.

> **"How could one of the names I got told after my brother died only be confirmed 30 years later?**

***Growing Up Black in Britain* by Stuart Lawrence & Ashley Hickson-Lovence (Scholastic £10.99). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members.**

"One hundred per cent that was one of those times when I felt bitter. How could one of the names I got in the playground the morning after my brother died only be confirmed 30 years later? How? But you know what? No one wants to be around bitter people so I don't allow myself that feeling for more than a moment. And that's something I teach my son. You can only let anger last a moment because then you lose the ability to communicate. I have to reflect on the person I want my son to be in the future and I have to set that example. That makes me pull myself together."

Lawrence has taught himself quite striking mental resilience. And, despite being diagnosed as dyslexic in 2021, he's channelled it into a book called *Growing Up Black in Britain: Stories of Courage, Success and Hope*, in which he writes interestingly on the question of identity and speaks to young comedians, models, the TV broadcaster Alison Hammond and the former Chelsea footballer Paul Canoville.

Theo has started secondary school. It won't be long until he is a teenager. Young black men in Britain, especially those in London, are statistically more likely to be stopped and searched, arrested — even murdered. Does he dread the teenage years?

"No. Why should I? I know the narrative is that young black male Londoners are into drill music and in gangs but there are plenty of good kids out there. He has a good heart and good values. And I truly believe that if you want to succeed in life, everything you need is in you. I don't say to him, 'You've got to be twice as good as the white kids' because that perpetuates a sense of inferiority or impostor syndrome. What I tell him is: it's down to you. Hard work always beats talent if talent doesn't work hard. But also: are you likeable and trustworthy and do people want to be around you?"

Lawrence taught graphic design at a south London school for 15 years. It had a diverse intake and he witnessed countless little moments where teachers got things wrong. Sometimes, though, just the smallest bit of humanity could make things right.

"My mantra was: kids might forget what you teach them but they never forget how you treat them."

Perhaps there's a similarity with the police. How they treat people has become a huge issue. Earlier this year Stuart's father Neville told reporters he still would never call the police if he was in trouble (he was reacting to the extraordinary case in 2020 of two Metropolitan Police officers taking photos of black female murder victims at a crime scene they were supposed to be guarding and tagging them "dead birds"). Would Stuart Lawrence call the police? This dilemma became very real for him in November 2021. His home was burgled. Did he hesitate to dial 999?

"Of course not. It's not like you have a choice. There isn't a number for the 'culturally appropriate police' so I just rang and said, 'We desperately need you.' And they were lovely. They made us feel very safe. I know the Met are on the naughty step for a lot of reasons at the moment but I have no complaints. They did their job."

His brother would have been 49 this month. And perhaps, as Stuart Lawrence suggests, the big memorial occasions will not continue for ever. But it's not so easy for him. Teaching young Theo about growing up black in Britain is only just beginning.

"It hurts me explaining to Theo why our family is so small," he says. "Stephen would have been an amazing uncle and my son would have had cousins. But like I said, wishing it was different is another 'what if'. I truly believe that it is my job to ask myself daily, what are you going to do to improve the world? There are still far more good people than bad out there. And I believe embracing all our nuances and differences is still what makes this a great country."

classical

BBC Singers/Phillips

St Paul's, Knightsbridge, SW1

★★★☆☆

In a newspaper article last week castigating the BBC for allegedly "dumbing down" the Proms, Lord Frost — the architect of Brexit who is apparently now a classical music expert — grumbled that this summer's Proms had not done much to celebrate William Byrd, the great English composer who died 400 years ago. Well, here was the BBC's professional choir doing a whole concert of Byrd, Thomas Weelkes and William Cornysh, the three Renaissance composers with notable anniversaries this year. I hope his lordship was among those queueing round the block to get in.

It would be a shame if he missed it, because the BBC, in its unfathomable wisdom, has apparently decided not to broadcast the event in its entirety but instead to spread the separate items over a succession of Radio 3 afternoon concerts at some unspecified time in the future. I hope that's just a random piece of corporate idiocy and not some devious way of undermining the BBC Singers again.

Either way, those items deserve a second hearing. The BBC Singers are not a specialist early-music choir, and perhaps the men are a little fruity in timbre for ideal clarity in these polyphonic masterpieces — especially those of Cornysh, who was never content to compose one or two notes to a syllable when he could spin out 10 or 20. But under the expert guidance of Peter Phillips, who is a Renaissance specialist, these ancient canticles and motets were ideally paced and delivered with excellent intonation.

The choice was canny. Byrd in pessimistic, persecuted-Catholic mode (*Ne Irascaris Domine* and the stunning *Tribulationes civitatum*) was balanced by his irresistibly joyous *Laudibus in Sanctis*; and unfamiliar (though contrapuntally astounding) Magnificats by Cornysh and Taverner were offset by two of Weelkes's most popular hits: *Hosanna to the Son of David* and *Gloria in excelsis Deo*.

My one disappointment? Not once did the choir sing a true pianissimo or fortissimo. Oscar Wilde's quip — "moderation in all things, including moderation" — holds good for performing Tudor and Jacobean anthems too. They have deep passions that need to be fully vented, not politely underplayed.

Richard Morrison



TRISTRAM KENTON

Hannah Sinclair Robinson as Grete and Felipe Pacheco as Gregor Samsa in Kafka's Metamorphosis

A Frantic reinvention

Lemn Sissay and Frantic Assembly set Kafka's story amid a cost of living crisis, says Rachel Halliburton

theatre

Metamorphosis

Plymouth Theatre Royal

★★★☆☆

In this physically ingenious, nightmarish adaptation of Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, Gregor Samsa does not wake up as an insect. We watch, instead, as he slowly becomes one, dehumanised by the demands of his job as a salesman. On a set where the walls tilt inwards with menace, the production's first visual coup is to make Gregor appear from nowhere: one moment we see an empty bed, the next he's materialised there as if from the shadows.

The theatre company Frantic Assembly has been rewriting the rulebook for almost three decades now; its rigorous physical exploration of emotion combined with edgy pulsing soundtracks has won an ardent following. Here the company has collaborated with the poet Lemn Sissay to rewrite Kafka's meticulously observed fable of alienation so that it becomes a stark reflection of our cost of living crisis, a portrait of a man hollowed out by overwork and debt.

While Tory politicians may not be lining up to see this, the production balances beauty with grit. At one point Gregor appears to be quite literally vomiting up the fabric he has to sell. At another point — when we're bracing ourselves to see the insect emerge from his bed — the cover pulls back to reveal his sister Grete (Hannah Sinclair Robinson) instead.

Certain scholars, lunging for originality, have claimed the work's really about Grete; here Sissay's script introduces a more contentious twist as romantic tensions develop between Grete and Gregor that contribute to his expulsion from the family. Though as the production develops we realise that Gregor is adopted (Grete is not), a factor that may remove the taboo but here tragically underpins the family's determination to reject him.

The Brazilian-British actor Felipe Pacheco is a wiry presence as Gregor; wisely he's never forced to go full exoskeleton, but through body language alone he demonstrates how stress strips him of his humanity. At one point he's dangling from the ceiling, at another he's huddled on a swinging light suspended by a cord, as Simisola Majekodunmi's eery lighting design makes his shadow on the wall flutter like a trapped moth.

Yet despite a whole butterfly house of striking elements in Scott Graham's production they don't always come together. At times Sissay's script erupts into poetic brilliance but at other points it's too fragmented and abstract.

Besides Pacheco, Jon Bausor's set is the star, animated by Ian William Galloway's video design. Ultimately, however, this is more interesting specimen than diverting new species.

Touring to March 2, 2024, franticassembly.co.uk

pop

Shania Twain

OVO Hydro, Glasgow

★★★☆☆

Boy, has TikTok turned on Shania Twain. The Stateside leg of the country superstar's first tour for five years recently set the video app alight for all the wrong reasons. Many claimed that gig-goers had left below-par shows in droves. The 58-year-old's skimpy outfits were criticised. She was accused of lip-syncing, singing out of tune and looking awkward.

At Twain's opening UK date, the first of three nights in Glasgow, fans in flashing cowboy hats and glittery attire had come to party regardless. When Twain was shown on screen starting the concert from among the audience, the screams went up a gear. When she appeared on stage in a mid-length auburn wig and a tiny denim dress that was basically a jacket, she looked gorgeous.

Yes, her moves were a tad stilted to begin with. She sang her 1990s hit *Don't Be Stupid (You Know I Love You)* as though on autopilot. There was a terrible attempt to tap-dance. On occasion her mouth moved very little despite her vocals belting out.

Twain climbed aboard a stallion-shaped motorbike for *I'm Gonna Getcha Good!* and sang lying horizontal, her denim boots up on the handlebars. Tacky, but the audience adored it.

The Canadian certainly can still sing — some fun a cappella intros proved it — but she has admitted that the open throat surgery she underwent in 2018 after contracting Lyme disease has made her much raspier. To be fair, she sounded superb on a rocky *Come on Over* and a haunting *You're Still the One*, for which she sat on a stool and played acoustic guitar.

By half an hour in it was impossible not to have fallen in love with Twain. Her infectiously excitable chat, her constant shoehorning of Glasgow into her songs (even the saloon bar on screen behind her was named after the city) and a hoedown during which a horse on screen jumped over her head were moments to remember.

"I'm having the friggin' time of my life," Twain exclaimed. Glasgow was too. And that was before Twain changed into a leopard-skin outfit for an encore of her two biggest hits. *That Don't Impress Me Much* and *Man! I Feel Like a Woman!* were monsters that had the whole of Hydro howling.

Lisa Verrico

Touring to Sep 28, shaniatwain.com

comedy

Mike Birbiglia

Wyndham's Theatre, WC2

★★★★☆

It's a gutsy move, booking in for a four-week West End run when your only previous London shows have been fleeting visits and a Soho run more than a decade ago. Yet there is a reason why *The Old Man & the Pool*, the latest monologue from the New York-based comic storyteller Mike Birbiglia, made it to Broadway last year. This quiet master of his craft combines big themes with intimate details garlanded with good jokes.

This makes him the easiest of company, however heavy his themes. Oh, it may take a short while to tune into him as he veers from talk of present-day heart worries to memories of childhood sporting failures. Birbiglia, 45, has a story to tell of why he needed to take up swimming for the first time or risk… well, risk dying. Don't expect him to get straight to the point, though. Where would be the fun, where would be the resonance, in that?



Mike Birbiglia, a master of his craft

Birbiglia is entirely comfortable on stage, even as he advertises his beta-male vulnerabilities — "I don't have a swimmer's body; I have a drowner's body." It feels casual, as he goes from his disastrous pulmonary function test to tales of fatherhood and his mildewy Brooklyn apartment and family Christmases and beyond.

Before you know it, though, he is segueing from the awkwardness of adult swimming lessons to a type 2 diabetes diagnosis back to a cancer diagnosis when he was 21. Amid the evocative digressions about pizza and family and sleepwalking, you almost don't notice how much of a life and death story is nestled in these funny lines and slyly collusive grins.

Performing on a set by Beowulf Boritt, dominated by a giant digital backdrop rendered in swimming-pool blue, he controls his tone with deceptive ease throughout the 75 minutes. A performer as controlled as this could risk being too clean, too clever. Not only do he and his director Seth Barrish quietly keep the emotional stakes high, though, they also deftly scuff things up with Birbiglia's interactions with the crowd. So don't let the affability fool you. Telling this story of decay, love, persistence and the circle of life, Mike Birbiglia is a true star.

Dominic Maxwell

To October 7, mikeonwestend.com

times2

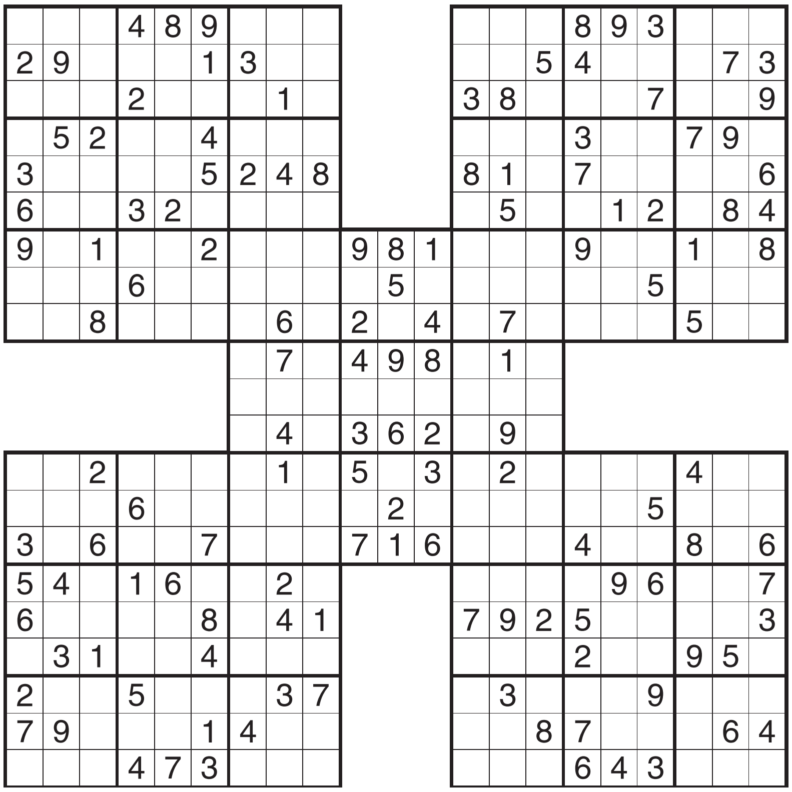
Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

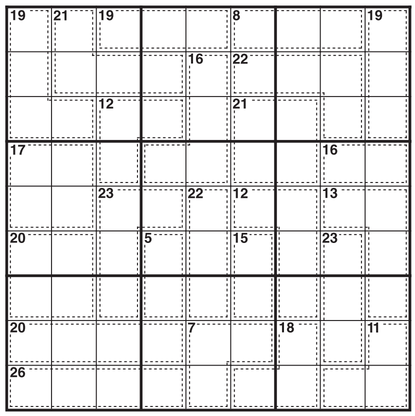


Sudoku super fiendish

		3						
	7			2	4			5
			9		5		6	
9		1	6					7
							8	1
7		2	5					9
			2		9		1	
	4			1	3			2
		5						

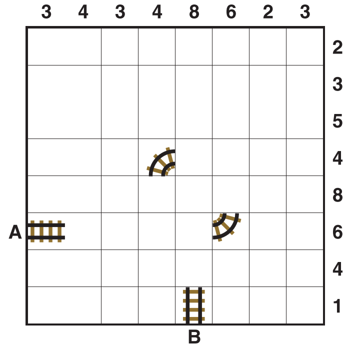
Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

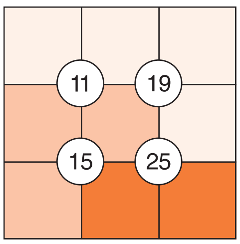


Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

□		□	>	□		□		□
						v		
□		□		□	<	□		□
□		□		2		□		□
						v		^
□		□		□		□		4
^						^		
□	<	□		□	>	□		□

Suko



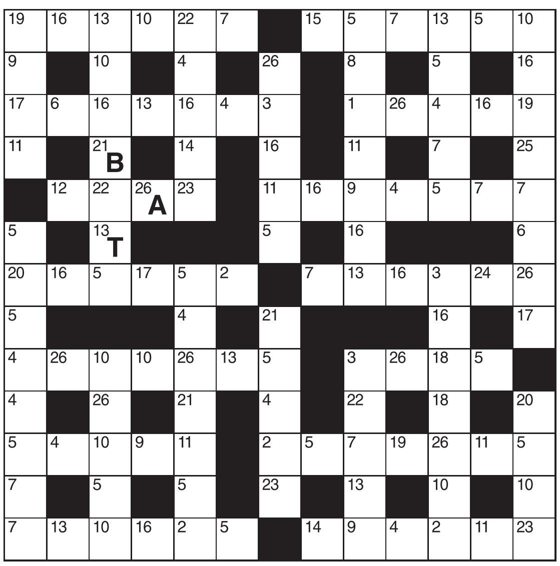
21 9 15

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet are accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.



~~A~~ ~~B~~ C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S ~~T~~ U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
												T
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
							B					A

Mini Sudoku

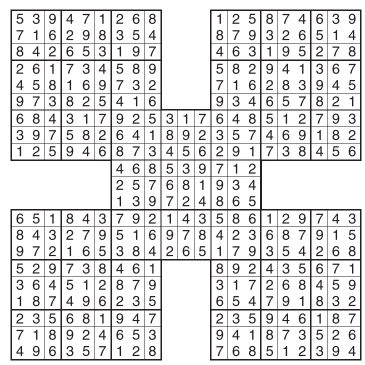
Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

		5			
2	6				5
	2			1	4
	4			2	3
6	5				1
		1			

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Thursday's solutions

SAMURAI



SUKO

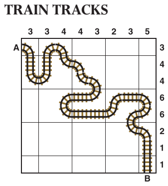
7	9	2
8	4	3
5	1	6

(circles: 28, 18, 18, 14)

MINI SUDOKU

3	5	4	1	6	2
6	2	1	5	3	4
5	3	6	2	4	1
1	4	2	6	5	3
2	6	3	4	1	5
4	1	5	3	2	6

TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI

3	>	2		4	<	5		1
2		4		1		3	<	5
		^		^		v		
1		5		3		2		4
5		1	<	2		4		3
v								
4		3	<	5		1		2

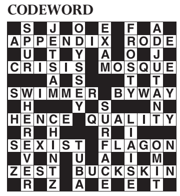
SUDOKU

4	6	7	3	5	8	1	2	9
8	3	2	9	1	4	5	7	6
1	9	5	2	6	7	4	8	3
9	8	6	1	7	3	2	5	4
3	5	1	8	4	2	9	6	7
2	7	4	6	9	5	8	3	1
5	4	3	7	8	9	6	1	2
6	2	8	4	3	1	7	9	5
7	1	9	5	2	6	3	4	8

KILLER

9	4	2	8	6	1	7	3	5
7	6	8	5	3	2	4	9	1
1	5	3	4	9	7	8	6	2
5	3	9	2	1	4	6	7	8
2	1	6	3	7	8	9	5	4
4	8	7	9	5	6	1	2	3
8	9	4	6	2	5	3	1	7
6	7	5	1	8	3	2	4	9
3	2	1	7	4	9	5	8	6

CODEWORD



A loving, nuanced tribute to a troubled star

Carol Midgley TV review



George Michael: Portrait of an Artist
Channel 4
★★★★☆

A Kestrel for a Knave: The Read
BBC4
★★★★☆

"The demons got the better of him, but he left us with so many angels." This lovely tribute to the very lovely George Michael came from the art historian Andrew Graham-Dixon, who might not seem an obvious talking head in a film dedicated to a pop megastar but turned out to be one of the most eloquent contributors in **George Michael: Portrait of an Artist**. As was Stevie Wonder, who simply said: "I felt the cry in his voice." The journalist and broadcaster Pete Paphides said that Michael's music "had a way of creating a dialogue between your hips and your heart".

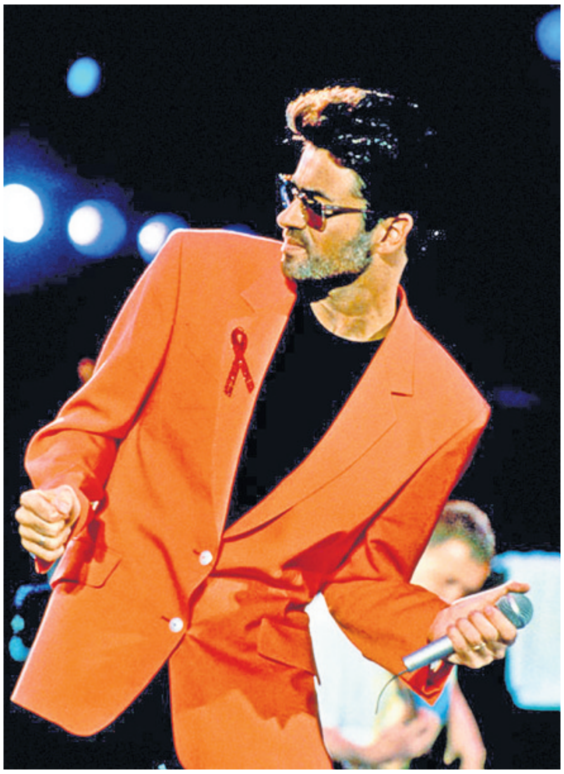
The film by Simon Napier-Bell, who managed Wham! from 1983 to 1985, did not airbrush or minimise the truth of Michael's tragic spiral into drug use, but it handled the facts with love, not sensationalism, which is more than can be said for some after his 2016 death. The result was a nuanced, layered biopic that obviously had the trust of its vast array of contributors, many of them Michael's close friends.

There was affection in Rufus Wainwright's anecdote about Michael phoning him at 3am while "very high" to tell him how much he loved his song *Going to a Town* (which Michael covered, beautifully), then falling asleep on the phone.

Stephen Fry said that he was moved by the man's legendary generosity — when he was fundraising for an Aids charity, Michael offered to give the UK royalties from his greatest-hits album but wanted it kept secret. "I cried. I was simply amazed," Fry said, adding that Michael was "a sweet, vulnerable, hurting man for most of his life", but still had a giant strength.

Indeed, when the love of his life, Anselmo Feleppa, was dying from Aids in 1992, Michael performed at the Freddie Mercury tribute concert, and did so brilliantly. Many documentaries have been made about Michael's life, but this one — which examined his creativity, musical genius and kindness as much as those demons — is probably the one he deserved.

QUEEN PHOTO ARCHIVE



George Michael at the Freddie Mercury tribute concert in 1992

A Kestrel for a Knave, or *Kes* as it's popularly known thanks to Ken Loach's 1969 film, is that rare thing — a bleak, heartbreaking novel featuring cruelty (to a child and a bird), but still an exquisitely beautiful one. Christopher Eccleston did an impressive job in **A Kestrel for a Knave: The Read** (an abridged version), capturing that bleakness but also the humour of Barry Hines's novel.

Eccleston's broad Yorkshire accent was pretty good too, getting just right the "aaats", "thees" and "he's crackers wi' it" (a reference to Billy's love for his hawk), which isn't bad for a lad from Salford. There's nowhere to hide with a straight read like this, with only a few set changes. It's all in the voice.

I once interviewed the late Hines at his house in Yorkshire, incidentally. He said that his mother, who worked as a maid in a grand house, had never read any of his books because "she might have seen some swearing, see". "I can see how her mind would work," Hines said. "'Ooh, our Barry swears.'" He was very good company.

Radio choice
Joe Clay



6 Music Artist in Residence
6 Music, 9pm

The station's latest artist in residence is Johnny Marr, *above*, a founding member of the Smiths and respected solo artist. The guitarist will present eight new shows that will be broadcast over the next two weeks. In each episode of the series, Marr explores songs that have shaped specific periods of his life, in one instalment recalling his time living in Portland, Oregon. He will also reveal the inspiration behind various riffs, demonstrate his deep love of Chic and share advice about how to play the guitar. "It's been fun," Marr says. "I hope people enjoy it. Good times."

OUR TV NEWSLETTER
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thetimes.co.uk/bulletins

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Debate **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Evening conversation **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. The artist Grayson Perry chooses his Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** DJ Spoony's Magnificent 7 **10.30** DJ Spoony's Rhythm Nation. R'n'B and soul **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Wynne Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Petroc Trelawny starts the programme's Northern Ireland Lough Tour on the foreshore of Carlingford Lough, standing between the Mourne and Cooley Mountains. Including **7.00**, **8.00** News. **7.30**, **8.30** News headlines
9.00 Essential Classics
Georgia Mann presents music and features
12.00 Composer of the Week: Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)
Donald Macleod is joined by Robert Quinney to explore the life and work of the Italian baroque composer, beginning with the influence of the composer and teacher Luzzasco Luzzaschi. Frescobaldi (*Partite Sopra Ciaccona*; *Canzona Terza a 2*; *Il primo libro delle fantasie a quattro — Fantasia prima, sopra un soggietto*; *Fantasia undecima, sopra quattro soggietti*; *Toccate e partite d'intavolatura di cimbalo et organo, Book 1*; *Toccata nona — arr. for double harp*; *Il secondo libro di toccate canzone, versi d'hinni, Magnificat, gagliarde, correnti*; and *Toccata prima*); and Luzzaschi (*Madrigali per cantare et sonare a uno, e doi, e tre soprano*; *O dolcezz' amarissime d'Amore*; and *Sacrarum Cantionum, Book 1: Deus tu scis insipientiam meam*)
1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Hannah French presents a recital from London's Wigmore Hall with baroque violinist Chouchane Siranossian playing music by Bach and some of his contemporaries. Bach (Violin Sonata in G, BWV1021; Adagio from Violin Sonata in C minor, BWV1024; and Fugue in G minor, BWV1026); Farina (*Sonata quinta detta La Farina*); Naregatsi (*Improvisation on Havun Havun*); Walther (Passacaglia from Sonata No 6); Schmelzer (Violin sonata *Victori der Christen*); and Locatelli (Sonata in D minor, Op 6 No 12)
2.00 Afternoon Concert
The Ulster Orchestra perform Schumann's Second Symphony, and Francesco Piemontesi is the soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No 20 with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra. Including — Bizet (*L'Arlesienne* Suite No 1 — *Carillon*); Margaret Bonds (*Troubled Water*); Marschner (*Hans Heiling* — Overture); Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2); Saint-Saëns (*Danse macabre*); Schumann (Symphony No 2); and Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor)
4.30 New Generation Artists
The baritone Konstantin Krimmel sings Schubert and Brahms from his most recent studio recording with the pianist Daniel Heide, while the violinist Johan Dalene plays Ravel's colourful *Tzigane*. Schubert (*Die Taubenpost* from *Schwanengesan*); Ravel (*Tzigane*); Brahms (*Sommerabend* Op 85/1); and Rob Luft (*Endless Summer*)
5.00 In Tune
Music and arts news
7.00 Classical Mixtape
A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Fiona Talkington presents Paavo Jarvi conducting the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in Mahler's Third Symphony at the opening concert of this year's Lucerne Festival. Mahler (Symphony No 3 in D minor)
10.00 Music Matters
As she celebrates her 90th birthday, the mezzo Janet Baker joins presenter Sara Mohr-Pietsch to explore her life in music (r)
10.45 The Essay: Unearthing Britannia's Tribes
The novelist Ilka Tampke is writing her latest Iron Age fiction about Boudicca and talks about how she gives voice to a warrior queen with little evidence and much myth (r)
11.00 Night Tracks
Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents a soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between
12.30am Through the Night (r)

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day (r)
6.00 Today
With Martha Kearney and Nick Robinson
9.00 Start the Week
A discussion on the differences between humans, Neanderthals and AI
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Material World
By Ed Conway (1/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour
Nuala McGovern hosts the magazine show
11.00 The Gift
A son's quest to learn about his late father takes a surprising turn (2/7)
11.30 Analysis
Debate on different dominant voices in society and which really determines the state of the nation (8/9) (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 NatureBang
New series. The evolution of laughter (1/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: Slow Air
By Dan Rebellato. A love story about messages to the future, whispered in a Sicilian cave 32 years ago
3.00 Brain of Britain
The sixth heat, with contestants from Downpatrick, Glasgow, Liverpool and Moreton-in-Marsh (6/17)
3.30 The Food Programme
Street food and takeaway nominees in the Food and Farming Awards (r)
4.00 History's Secret Heroes
Helena Bonham Carter shares the story of the aftermath of Pearl Harbour (5/10) (r)
4.30 Beyond Belief
Aleem Maqbool speaks with an ex-convict about how he found faith in prison (6/8)
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Paul Sinha's Perfect Pub Quiz
Paul Sinha tests an Andover audience on Hampshire trivia (3/10)
7.00 The Archers
Fallon makes her position clear
7.15 Front Row
The musician Alice Phoebe Lou performs live
8.00 24 Hours in Snapchat
Monika Plaha meets three people who share their experience of the social media platform
8.30 Crossing Continents
The desperate search by thousands of Syrian families for their missing relatives (8/9) (r)
9.00 The Archbishop Interviews
The Archbishop of Canterbury talks to the songwriter and poet Nick Cave (4/6) (r)
9.30 Start the Week (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Secret Hours
By Mick Herron (1/10)
11.00 Sound Towns
Taking a look at the origins of the Newport's music scene (1/4) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Material World (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am Stop Messing About! **8.30** Semi Circles **9.00** It's Your Round **9.30** Alison and Maud **10.00** Indiana **11.00** The Three Musketeers **11.30** Death Speaks Another Language **12.00** How to Find Home **12.15pm** Hester **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **1.00** Stop Messing About! **1.30** Semi Circles **2.00** It's Your Round **2.30** Alison and Maud **3.00** Indiana **4.00** The Three Musketeers **4.30** Death Speaks Another Language **5.00** How to Find Home **5.15** Hester **5.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **6.00** Stop Messing About! **6.30** Semi Circles **7.00** It's Your Round. Comedy panel show, presented by Angus Deayton **7.30** Alison and Maud. Comedy with Miriam Margolyes **8.00** Radiolab. How the analogue world of the cassette tape helped to create the internet **8.55** Inheritance Tracks. Celebrities pick two songs with special meaning for them **9.00** Mastertapes. Donovan talks about his 1966 album *Sunshine Superman* **9.30** The Long Drop. By Denise Mina **9.45** The Dead Hour. Thriller by Denise Mina **10.00** Comedy Club: Paul Sinha's Perfect Pub Quiz. Paul Sinha and a Manchester audience compile questions for a perfect pub quiz **10.30** Small Scenes. A pair of long-lost brothers meet for the first time **11.00** The News Quiz. Panel game **11.30** Lee and Herring's Fist of Fun

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport. A debate on the weekend's football plus updates from Nottingham Forest v Burnley **9.00** Rugby World Cup **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Monday GameNight: Nottingham Forest v Burnley (Kick-off **7.45**) **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **9.30** Mike and Kev **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **3.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **5.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** First Edition **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Huw Stephens **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Chris Hawkins **4.00** Steve Lamacq. Launching the Festival Survey **7.00** New Music Fix Daily **9.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence. A selection of themed tracks. ***See Radio Choice*** **10.00** Riley & Coe **12.00** Nirvana Live **1.00am** The First Time with Dave Grohl **2.00** 6 Music's Deep Dive into Nevermind **3.00** The Artist Collection Playlist

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents a selection of music **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Julia Raeside

Neighbours
Freevee

Top pick

In July last year the cast of *Neighbours* gathered one last time to film an extended hour-long finale with guest appearances from Jason Donovan and Kylie Minogue. After 37 years on air, the Australian soap was coming to an end. The televisual wake was a psychedelic affair and felt very much as if everyone had brought their games in for the last day of term. Susan Kennedy (Jackie Woodburne) narrated a history of Ramsay Street as the residents looked back over their lives as friends, lovers and enemies. Margot Robbie popped up on Zoom. A period of mourning began. Three months later, Fremantle and Amazon Freevee announced a resurrection deal, with Amazon also streaming the vast archive for those wishing to delve into the show's history. The new episodes pick up two years later and in true soap style there are some surprises in store. Lassiter's resort is as busy as ever, Mischa Barton (*The OC*) plays an enigmatic hotel guest and the general manager Paul Robinson (Stefan Dennis) is either haranguing staff or bowed over a scotch, as is his way. If you have missed the familiar faces, gentle repartee and occasional jump scares of the writers' favoured handbrake turns, you'll be pleased to hear that it's business as usual in Erinsborough. Although it's hard not to imagine the cast as undead replicants, acting out their former lives, unable to release their grip on the only life some of them have ever known.

Jimmy Doherty's New Zealand Escape
Channel 4, 8pm

The TV agronomist heads to New Zealand to sample its delicacies while ooh-ing at the mountains and swishing the local hooch around his happy chops. "You're too tinse, Jimmy," exclaims a lady rancher showing him how to use a whip on her all-women farm. He doesn't look tense. He looks as happy as any man paid to lope about one of the most beautiful land masses on earth, being fed fresh fish on beaches and rubbing noses with the locals while the northern hemisphere shivers through an endless winter.

Early

BBC1
6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Fraud Squad. New series. A removals boss films himself smuggling two million cigarettes into the UK (AD) **10.45** Claimed and Shamed. A serial claimer is caught out when a faked fall is recorded on CCTV **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Vauxhall, Aylesbury and Macclesfield (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Christina Trevanion presents the show from Exeter **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Suni helps a patient after a drone crashes onto their roof (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. A white kitchen dining set, an old bookcase and a rocking horse are salvaged **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah tours the East Midlands in search of a property to suit buyers who have been living in the USA for 23 years. Sonali also meets another couple who relocated from America **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock and Chris Hull head to Exeter to convert an overgrown, unloved horror into a chilled out, festival-inspired garden **4.30** The Finish Line. Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene host **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2
6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue. An Asian-inspired garden in Bolton (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: This Farming Life (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live. The latest stories **1.00** Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Jeremy Vine hosts the quiz (r) **2.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family. Jeremy Dein and Sasha Wass investigate the poisoning of a wealthy female tenant, who was killed by her landlord in 1911, just after signing over her assets to him (r) (AD) **3.00** Kelvin's Big Farming Adventure. Kelvin Fletcher tries to start his own farm (r) (AD) **3.30** Great Canadian Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo explores Canada's maritime provinces (r) (AD) **4.00** Serengeti. Dramatised natural history show set in Africa. A lioness is forced into exile after having cubs with an outsider and an elephant feels jealous of his baby sibling (r) (AD) **5.00** Flog It! People are invited to try to make money out of their antiques by taking them to auction (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Milton Jones, Ria Lina, Martin Roberts and Briony May Williams (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef takes a masterclass in hedge laying

ITV1
6.00am Good Morning Britain. Featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Showbiz interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. The chef visits a local food market in Seville, before meeting with a rising culinary star and stopping by an orange grove where he learns how to make marmalade (AD) **3.00** Tenable. New series. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis. A team of five take on a series of Top 10 list questions **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4
6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Château DIY. At Château de Montvason, Emma and Paul uncover layers of Second World War history (r) (AD) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A look back at some of the best off-grid projects from *Amazing Spaces* (r) (AD) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Chris McCausland is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Scarlette Douglas lines up five stunning properties for a widow who wants to start a new life around the lake and town of Viñuela in Málaga (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Laura Hamilton helps a pair from Brighton find their perfect holiday home, in and around the beautiful Lecrín Valley in Granada Province **5.00** A New Life in the Sun. In France, a Manchester couple snaps up a complex of holiday lets, and Yorkshire restaurateurs bring a taste of the north to rural Portugal (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Part two of two. After being conned, Mr Burns seeks revenge on Jay G with the help of Homer, Bart, rapper Jazzy James and Jay G's ex-wife Praline (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Sienna does whatever it takes to get Earl Rafe to see her (r) (AD)

Channel 5
6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Rose is intimidated by the prospect of meeting Mali's mum, and Eden finds Cash drinking in uniform at Salt and manages to coax him home (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Seven Deadly Sins (PG, TVM, 2022)** Greed threatens to destroy a woman's life when she meets a benefactor and entrepreneur and his wealthy aunt. Thriller starring Monique Coleman, Nathan Witte and Eric Benet **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Essex boy Colin is determined to live a healthier life on the Costa Blanca. He ropes in his mate Pete, trying to convince him to join him for a walk and a visit to the mud baths **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. Susan takes her campervan to the North Yorkshire Moors and the Yorkshire Dales, a part of the world known as Herriot Country (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



What I Wish I'd

In this weekly podcast, sporting icons, politicians and other well-known figures give their first-hand accounts on how they achieved success in the face of adversity. Featuring guests such as Brian Cox, Fatima Whitbread, Richard Branson and Tom Daley.

7PM

BBC1
7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders While Suki is determined to prove Ravi's guilt, Phil struggles to contain his own as Kat excitedly prepares for the wedding (AD)

BBC2
7.00 Chris and Meg's Wild Summer The presenters explore the coasts of north-east of England and the Scottish Borders (4/6) (r)

7.30 Mastermind Clive Myrie quizzes the contestants on Chelsea FC in the Premier League, Franz Kafka, Anglo-Saxon England and Harry Styles

ITV1
7.30 Emmerdale Jacob has an allergic reaction, and Amelia is left stunned. Meanwhile, Sam feels that Lydia is pushing him away (AD)

Channel 4
7.00 Channel 4 News

Channel 5
7.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders An inspector follows the dangerously erratic driver of a white van, but when he stops the vehicle the situation quickly escalates, while a PC spots a broken down lorry is blocking a live lane of the M56 (4/10) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8PM

BBC1
8.00 When Bridges Collapse: The Genoa Disaster On August 14, 2018, the Ponte Morandi in Genoa collapsed. This investigation into the disaster tells the stories of people on the bridge that day and examines what caused the road viaduct to fail so catastrophically (r) (AD)

BBC2
8.00 Only Connect Victoria Coren Mitchell presents presents the quiz show, as Drop of Red take on Suncatchers

8.30 University Challenge University of Sheffield face Loughborough University

ITV1
8.00 Coronation Street The police haul Bernie in for questioning about her scam, Aadi asks Courtney to contribute to the household bills, and Troy instructs Todd to undertake an unpleasant task (AD)

Channel 4
8.00 Jimmy Doherty's New Zealand Escape New series. Jimmy takes a trip to New Zealand, to meet and work alongside the farmers and produce makers who are turning a passion for great food into an enviable lifestyle. *See Viewing Guide* (1/4)

Channel 5
8.00 Police Interceptors Several officers join in the pursuit of two men in a van, who are racing through four counties and leaving a trail of destruction in their wake — filming the entire thing on their phone. Another car takes a pounding when two men attack a new BMW with a crowbar

9PM

BBC1
9.00 Who Do You Think You Are? The Canadian comedian Katherine Ryan's investigation of her family history leads her to a Methodist minister and his family in colonial Nova Scotia, and cod traders in Newfoundland (5/8) (r) (AD)

BBC2
9.00 Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos The journalist examines Boris Johnson's premiership, focusing on the government's struggle to deal with Covid-19 and Johnson's relationship with chief adviser Dominic Cummings. *See Viewing Guide* (2/3) (AD)

ITV1
9.00 My Mum, Your Dad The parents take part in a group task, which has the grown-up children reaching for the cushions again as they watch their parents getting closer (6/10) (AD)

Channel 4
9.00 Top Guns: Inside the RAF A retiring Warrant Officer prepares to spearhead the Battle of Britain dinner, but all plans are halted when the death of the Queen is announced (5/6) (AD)

Channel 5
9.00 The Inheritance The siblings' lives become more complex after the family home is burgled. A battle of wills leaves Chloe confused and Daniel is desperate to pay back his loan (3/4)

10PM

BBC1
10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.40 The Repair Shop A former professional goalkeeper brings in a 1970s football programme signed by Pelé, and a broken guitar that helped a teenager through lockdown is revived. Plus, toy restorers Julie Tatchell and Amanda Middleditch attend to a teddy bear with hardly any fur, a wonky leg and holes in his feet (r) (AD)

BBC2
10.00 The Royle Family The morning of the wedding arrives and it is not just Denise's nerves that are on edge, as Jim has diarrhoea (6/6) (r) (AD)

10.30 Newsnight Presented by Kirsty Wark

ITV1
10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Long Lost Family The singer-songwriter KT Tunstall tries to find her birth father, and two siblings search for the mother they were separated from in the 1960s (3/7) (r) (AD)

Channel 4
10.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics' opinions on programmes including *My Mum, Your Dad, Welcome to Wrexham, Love & Death* and *Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden* (r) (AD)

Channel 5
10.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts Barnsley Hospital faces one of its toughest shifts to date, and with no children's beds available across the whole of Yorkshire, the hospital is under immense pressure (7/9) (r)

11PM

BBC1
11.40 Alan Carr's Picture Slam Game show in which contestants have to identify a board full of images, with a chance of winning up to £10,000 if they know them all. Taking part this week are friends from Grimsby, cousins from London and Nottingham, and friends from Barry (1/8) (r)

BBC2
11.15 Dark Waters (12, 2019) When a defence attorney takes on a lawsuit case against a chemical company, he finds a deep and rich trial in their history that unravels a history of pollution. Drama starring Mark Ruffalo. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

ITV1
11.40 My Mum, Your Dad The parents take part in a group task that embarrasses their grown-up children (6/10) (r) (AD)

Channel 4
11.05 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on *Strictly Come Dancing, Vigil, Serengeti II, Come Dine with Me, Ambulance, Hotel Paranormal*, Andrew Marr's interview with Keir Starmer, and ITV news coverage of the petrol crisis (r) (AD)

Channel 5
11.05 Ambulance: Code Red Paramedics are called out when a boy is run over on the way to school. Blood flowing out of the patient's ear suggests that he may have a fractured skull and a brain injury (r)

Late

BBC1
12.30am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2
1.15am Sign Zone: Countryfile Sammi Kinghorn returns to Cumbria to find out how young shepherdess Katie is doing (r) (SL) **2.10** Henpocalypse! Zara finds herself in emotional turmoil over Gary (r) (AD, SL) **2.40-3.10** Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes volunteers at the salon and decides to try out speed-dating (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1
12.30am All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r) **2.15** Tipping Point. Quiz hosted by Ben Shephard (r) **3.05** Tenable. A team of five take on a series of Top 10 list questions (r) (SL) **3.55** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4
12.10am The Queens that Changed the World (6/6) (AD) **1.00** The Duchess and Her Magical Kingdom (r) (AD) **1.50** Screw (r) (AD, SL) **2.40** Bone Detectives: Britain's Buried Secrets (r) (AD) **3.30** Grand Designs (r) (AD) **4.25** Location, Location, Location (r) **5.20** Beat the Chef (r) **5.45-6.05** Kirstie's House of Craft (r)

Channel 5
12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Live NFL — Monday Night Football: Pittsburgh Steelers v Cleveland Browns (Kick-off **1.15**). Coverage of the week two match at Acrisure Stadium **4.30** Entertainment News on 5 **4.40** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35-6.00** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

television & radio

Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos
BBC2, 9pm

The BBC's former political editor continues her trawl through the bizarre comings and goings in government since the Brexit vote. It does feel like a timely examination of just how bad things have got. Having had a ringside seat for all of it, Kuenssberg spends this episode recalling the rapid decline in the optimism of the Conservative Party as Boris Johnson's landslide victory gave way to Covid and the fall of his chief adviser, Dominic Cummings. And there's still the No 10 revolving door to come next week.

Juice
BBC3, 10pm/10.30pm

A double bill to kick off Mawan Rizwan's beautifully surreal new sitcom. He plays Jamma, a style-conscious attention-enthusiast who works for an ad agency, dates a psychotherapist (Russell Tovey) and struggles with adult life. In tonight's instalment, Jamma leaves home and gets a work promotion, but can't unpack his boxes or follow simple instructions. His physicality and childlike gurning share comedy DNA with Frank Spencer and the surreal scene shifts call to mind Charlie Kaufman and the Mighty Boosh.

The Red Queen: A Film Portrait of Barbara Castle
BBC4, 10.10pm

After an introduction from the interviewer Michael Cockerell (10pm), there follows a screening of *The Red Queen*, the 1995 portrait of Barbara Castle he made with the director Matthew Barrett. The Labour firebrand is whisked back to her teens watching a Rudolph Valentino film, becoming a young girl again, her passion as undimmed as her zest for political change. At 85, she talks about not resting on her laurels. Cockerell's description of her as "the Margaret Thatcher of the Labour Party" doesn't even begin to cover it.

Film Dark Waters
BBC2, 11.15pm

Directed by Todd Haynes and starring Mark Ruffalo, this tells of how the American conglomerate DuPont created carcinogenic "forever chemicals" and released them into the environment. A harrowing true-life tale to send you into a rage. (12, 2019)

Sky Max

6.00am Supergirl (r) **7.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** Stargate Atlantis (r) **11.00** Supergirl (r) **12.00** The Flash (r) **1.00pm** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **6.00** Stargate Atlantis. Sheppard becomes a homicide detective in an alternate reality (r) **7.00** Stargate Atlantis. The 100th and final episode of the sci-fi series (r) **8.00** There's Something About Movies. Comedy panel show hosted by Alan Carr (r) (AD) **9.00** Fantasy Island. New series. Return of the drama starring Roselyn Sanchez **10.00** Fantasy Island. After her mum's passing, Helene searches for her biological father (r) **11.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks (r) (AD) **11.45** Brassic. Erin organises a fete (r) (AD) **12.45am** Brassic (r) (AD) **1.45** COBRA: Cyberwar. Communications are jammed (r) (AD) **2.45** Road Wars (r) **3.10** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.05** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.55** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **10.05** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Raised by Wolves (r) (AD) **3.20** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **5.50** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Jon and the Night's Watch face their biggest challenge (r) (AD) **9.00** Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty. Drama chronicling the professional and personal lives of the 1980s Los Angeles Lakers basketball team. Stars John C Reilly (7/7) (r) **10.15** The Lovers. A Belfast supermarket worker begins a relationship with a political broadcaster. Comedy drama starring Johnny Flynn and Roisin Gallagher (1/6) (r) (AD) **10.50** Euphoria. Nate celebrates his newfound freedom, and Rue tries to recover (6/8) (r) (AD) **11.55** True Detective. Ray and Ani have a close call with Caspere's killer (3/8) (r) (AD) **1.05am** Angels in America (r) **2.10** Das Boot. In German (r) **3.10** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **4.10** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The 2000s (r) **7.00** Discovering: Richard Attenborough (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** One Shot: The Football Factory (r) (AD) **10.00** Spector (r) (AD) **11.00** 100 Foot Wave (r) (AD) **12.00 FILM: Dave Not Coming Back (PG, 2020)** Two divers' efforts to retrieve a dead body from a freshwater cave **2.00pm FILM: The Slow Hustle (15, 2021)** The story of the unsolved death of Baltimore police detective Sean Suiter (AD) **3.45** My Icon: John Amaechi (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Richard Attenborough (r) **6.00** One Shot: The Football Factory (r) (AD) **7.00** Spector. Documentary (1/4) (r) (AD) **8.00** 100 Foot Wave (5/6) (r) (AD) **9.00** Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes (r) (AD) **11.00 FILM: All That Breathes (12, 2022)** Documentary starring Salik Rehman **1.00am FILM: Assassins (12, 2020) 3.00 FILM: The Art of Political Murder (2020)** (AD) **4.45** My Icon: Henni Goya (r) (AD) **5.00** Discovering: Richard Attenborough (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Glyndebourne: No Ordinary Summer **7.00** Andrea Bocelli: The Journey **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Basil Rathbone **12.00** The Joy of Painting **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** DH Lawrence: Sex, Exile and Greatness **3.00** Wordsworth & Coleridge Road Trip with Frank Skinner and Denise Mina **4.00** Discovering: Jon Voight **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** The Joy of Painting. Double bill **8.00** André Rieu: Songs from My Heart. A midsummer's night concert in Holland **10.30** Classic FM Live A Film Music Spectacular. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform movie music at the Royal Albert Hall **12.30am** The Barry White Story: Let the Music Play. The singer's life and career **1.40** Sam Cooke: A Legend in Concert **3.05** Eric Idle: Off Camera **4.20** National Trust: National Treasures (AD) **5.35** Inside Art: Barbara Hepworth

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** The Football Show **11.00** The Football Show **11.30** Ref Watch **12.00** The Football Show **1.00pm** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **3.00** Sports Desk **4.00** Sports Desk **5.00** Sky Sports News **6.00** Sky Sports News at 6 **6.30** Live MNF: Nottingham Forest v Burnley (Kick-off **7.45**). Coverage of the Premier League encounter at City Ground. Forest have made a steady start to the campaign, and many of their deadline day signings are still waiting to make their debuts for the club, while newly promoted Burnley have found wins hard to come by in the early stages of the season **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News. Analysis and comment **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00am** Live NFL: Pittsburgh Steelers v Cleveland Browns (Kick-off **1.15**). Coverage of the week two match at Acrisure Stadium **4.30** Sky Sports News

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: **10.40pm** Jailed: Inside Maghaberry Prison. With Stephen Nolan **11.10** The Repair Shop (r) (AD) **12.10am** Alan Carr's Picture Slam (r) **12.55-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: **11.40pm** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights. Jane Lewis presents (r) **12.25am** Alan Carr's Picture Slam (r) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.15-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: **8.00pm** Pizza Boys: World Cup Adventure. Visiting Lyon **8.30-9.00** Weatherman Walking. In Monmouthshire (r)

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: **10.00pm-10.30** Peatai!

BBC2 Wales
As BBC2 except: **7.00pm-7.30** Wynne's Welsh 70s. Archive highlights from 1971 (r)

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.40** Sharp End

STV
As ITV1 except: **10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Long Lost Family. With KT Tunstall (r) (AD) **12.05am** My Mum, Your Dad (r) (AD) **1.00-2.15** All Elite Wrestling: Rampage (r) **3.55-5.05** Night Vision

UTV
As ITV1 except: **10.45pm-11.40** View from Stormont. Political developments

BBC Scotland
2.00pm Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Eat the Town (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Island Crossings (r) **7.00** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights **7.45** Sportscene Goals+ **8.00** This Farming Life **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Ballers: Ball or Nothing. New series **11.00** Shinty: Camanachd Cup Highlights 2023 **11.30-12.00** Limmy's Show (r)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.10** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.20** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.30** Na Clangers **5.40** Rita is Crogall (r) **5.45** Meaban is Moo (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Port Pàipeir (r) **6.10** Damhan & Durrag/Pipas & Douglas (r) **6.15** A' Chuil (r) **6.20** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles **6.35** Geamaichean Gorach (r) **6.40** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** Na Drobhairean (Scottish History) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** An Clò Mòr (r) **9.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **10.00** Bannan (The Ties That Bind) (r) **10.30** Mu Chriochan Hoil (r) **11.30** Mach à Seo! (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **6.20** Octonots (r) **6.35** Shwshaswyn (r) **6.45** Sigldigwt (r) **7.00** Timpo (r) **7.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau **7.20** Misho (r) **7.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu **8.00** Sali Mali (r) **8.05** Digbi Draig (r) **8.20** Dathlu 'Da Dona (r) **8.35** Twt (r) **8.45** Asra (r) **9.00** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **9.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **9.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **9.45** Deian a Loli (r) **10.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **10.05** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **10.20** Octonots (r) **10.35** Shwshaswyn (r) **10.45** Sigldigwt (r) **11.00** Timpo (r) **11.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **11.20** Misho (r) **11.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **11.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Adre (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Ceffylau Cymru (r) **1.30** Pen/Campwyr (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Eryri: Pobol y Parc (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **4.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Byd Rwtsh Dai Potsh (r) **5.10** Seligo (r) **5.15** Bwystfil (r) **5.25** Dyffryn Mwmin **5.50** News Ni **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Y Byd ar Bedwar **8.25** Garddio a Mwy **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Cefn Gwlad (AD) **9.35** Ralïo+. The Ceredigion Rally **10.35** Sgorio **11.05-11.35** Y Gem Gyda (r)

T AUDIO

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TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. All the stories you need to know to start your day **9.30** Mike and Kev. Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their unique take on the front pages and the latest news **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host looks through the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues and debates **3.00** Kevin O'Sullivan. The host tackles the big stories of the day **5.00** Vanessa Feltz. Interviews, and viewers' thoughts on what has got the nation talking **7.00** Jeremy Kyle Live. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events **9.00** The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about **10.00** First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle Live **2.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4

7.00pm Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo continues his south Wales coastal railway journey in Barry Island (AD) **7.30** Climbing Great Buildings. Scaling the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol (AD) **8.00** Art on the BBC: The Great Salvador Dalí. The art historian David Dibosa explores the BBC archives to create a history of Salvador Dalí **9.00** Maggi Hambling: Making Love with the Paint. The painter and sculptor Maggi Hambling talks about her career (AD) **10.00** Barbara Castle Remembered by Michael Cockerell. The acclaimed political profiler shares his memories of his 1995 encounter with the Labour MP. *See Viewing Guide* **10.10** The Red Queen: A Film Portrait of Barbara Castle. A profile. *See Viewing Guide* **11.05** Bridget Riley: Painting the Line. Documentary profile of the artist **12.05am** Faith Ringgold: Tell It Like It Is — Imagine. The artist and author **1.15** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) **1.45** Climbing Great Buildings (AD) **2.15** The Red Queen: A Film Portrait of Barbara Castle (SL) **3.05-4.00** Art on the BBC: The Great Salvador Dalí (SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am Private Elvis **7.30 FILM: Thunder in the City (PG, 1937)** Crime comedy starring Edward G Robinson (b/w) **9.10 FILM: The Riverside Murder (PG, 1935)** Crime drama starring Basil Sydney (b/w) **10.25 FILM: The Outlaw (PG, 1943)** Western starring Jane Russell (b/w) **12.40pm FILM: Brighton Rock (PG, 1948)** Thriller starring Richard Attenborough (b/w) **2.30** Crown Court **3.00** The Saint (b/w) **4.00 FILM: My Man Godfrey (U, 1936)** Comedy starring Carole Lombard (b/w) **5.50** Look at Life. A look at dumped cars **6.00** The Footage Detectives. Air travel **7.00 FILM: Walk East On Beacon! (U, 1952)** Spy thriller with George Murphy (b/w) **8.55** Cinebox Memories. Mr Acker Bilk performs **9.00** The Gold Robbers. Hunting a marksman **10.05 FILM: Mademoiselle (15, 1966)** Drama starring Jeanne Moreau (b/w) **12.10am FILM: Afraid of the Dark (15, 1991)** Psychological thriller starring James Fox **1.55 FILM: A Song for Europe (PG, TVM, 1985)** Drama starring David Suchet **4.00 FILM: A Doll's House (PG, 1973)** Drama starring Claire Bloom **5.50** Pieces of Silver

Film4

11.00am Went the Day Well? (PG, 1942) Second World War drama starring Leslie Banks (b/w) **12.50pm The Yellow Balloon (PG, 1953)** Crime drama starring Andrew Ray (b/w) **2.30 True Grit (PG, 1969)** Western starring John Wayne (AD) **5.05 The Red Pony (U, 1949)** Drama starring Robert Mitchum **6.55 The Day the Earth Stood Still (12, 2008)** An alien is sent to Earth on a mission to decide if the human race should be wiped out or allowed to continue existing. Sci-fi remake with Keanu Reeves and Jennifer Connelly (AD) **9.00 Conan the Barbarian (15, 2011)** A warrior seeks revenge on the warlord who killed his father, and tries to stop him magically making himself all-powerful. Fantasy adventure with Jason Momoa and Stephen Lang (AD) **11.15 Salt (12, 2010)** A CIA agent goes on the run after she is accused of being a sleeper assassin sent to murder the Russian president. Action thriller starring Angelina Jolie (AD) **1.15am-3.10 Chained for Life (15, 2018)** An actress struggles to connect with her disfigured co-star on the set of a film. Comedy drama starring Jess Weixler and Adam Pearson

More4

8.55am Kirstie's Vintage Gems **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (AD) **5.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo (AD) **6.55** The Dog House (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows a project near Newbury to construct a modern farmhouse that combines an open-plan party pad with functional spaces below (9/12) (AD) **9.00** The UK's National Parks with Caroline Quentin. New series. A guide to the landscapes and activities within the UK's National Parks. Here, Caroline visits Kinder Scout in the Peak District and the Ramsey Sound (1/4) (AD) **10.00** 999: What's Your Emergency? Paramedics treat people with mental health problems, helping a father with suicidal thoughts (AD) **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E. An 84-year-old woman is referred to St George's for urgent treatment for dangerously high potassium levels (AD) **12.10am** The UK's National Parks with Caroline Quentin. At Kinder Scout in the Peak District (AD) **1.15** 999: On the Front Line **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am CITV **9.00** One Tree Hill **10.00** Dawson's Creek **11.00** Love Bites (AD) **12.00** Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dinner Date (AD) **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** Family Fortunes **8.00** Superstore (AD) **8.30** Superstore. The closure of a shopping centre brings an influx of new customers (AD) **9.00** Family Guy. Stewie becomes addicted to playing hide-and-seek (AD) **9.30** American Dad! A friendship with a frog brings excitement to the Smith household (AD) **10.00** American Dad! Steve goes on a class trip to Philadelphia in a bid to fall in love (AD) **10.30** Family Guy (AD) **11.00** Family Guy (AD) **11.30** American Dad! (AD) **12.00** Superstore (AD) **1.00am** Plebs (AD) **1.55** Celebrity Karaoke Club **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **5.00** The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants (AD) **5.25** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **5.45** Craig of the Creek

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.35** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.05** On the Buses **9.15** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.35** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.55** Endeavour (AD) **5.55** Heartbeat. Rosie gets a shock while walking her aunt's dog (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. PC Younger's career is put on the line (AD) **8.00** Endeavour. The team is faced with a grisly murder on an Oxford towpath while Morse sees in the new year at a Venetian opera (1/3) (AD) **10.00** Professor T. A University of Cambridge criminologist is persuaded by a former student to help police investigate a serial rapist. Meanwhile, when he discovers his mother is trying to sell his family home, Jasper makes a momentous decision. Crime drama starring Ben Miller and Emma Naomi (1/6) (AD) **11.05** Agatha Christie's Poirot. Hastings' new interest in photography provides Poirot with the clue to solve a mystery involving cyanide, failing brakes and mixed-up love lives (AD) **12.10am** Where the Heart Is. A double bill of the rural drama (AD, SL) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) **7.00** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.05** The Saint **9.15** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.25** Magnum, PI **11.25** The Motorbike Show **12.30pm** The Saint **1.35** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **2.45** Magnum, PI **3.50** The Professionals. An Israeli minister is abducted (AD) **4.55** Minder. Arthur's minicab firm is targeted by saboteurs (AD) **6.00** The Motorbike Show. Henry Cole rides an Africa Twin through Oxfordshire **7.00** Goodwood Revival Highlights. Classic cars take to Goodwood Motor Circuit **8.00** Silverstone Festival. Part one of highlights from this summer's Silverstone Festival **9.00 FILM: Mad Max 2 (18, 1981)** A drifter roaming a post-apocalyptic wasteland helps a community escape gangs of marauders. Adventure sequel starring Mel Gibson (AD) **11.05 FILM: Death Wish (18, 1974)** A family man decides to take the law into his own hands after his wife is killed. Vigilante thriller starring Charles Bronson and Hope Lange (AD) **1.00am** Motorsport UK **1.55** Minder (AD, SL) **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

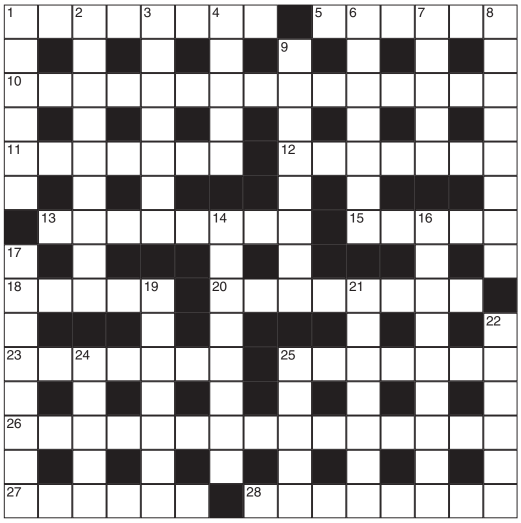
6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** All Creatures Great and Small **8.00** Doctors **9.20** Classic Holby City **10.40** Casualty **11.45** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.05** Pie in the Sky **3.05** Lovejoy **4.10** All Creatures Great and Small **5.25** The Upper Hand. Part two of two. Caroline's former husband plans to remarry in the south of France **6.00** 'Allo 'Allo! Aided by Gruber, René and company dance their way out of the POW camp **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine. Seymour decides to dabble in skiing **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Compo has an interesting experience when he loses his ferret as the trio make their way to a friend's funeral **8.00** Miss Marple. An advertisement in a village newspaper reveals details of a forthcoming murder and proves shockingly accurate (AD) **11.25** Silent Witness. Nikki and the Lyell unit are called in to investigate an attack against a transgender man. Two further assaults are reported, one leaving a potential witness **1.45am** Lovejoy. The dealer makes a shrewd investment **2.50** Classic Holby City. Jac makes an enemy of Imelda (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Sounds of the Seventies **7.15** Warbird Workshop **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** Secret Nazi Bases **11.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (AD) **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases. Allied forces stumble across a sprawling complex in the French countryside **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys **7.00** Antiques Roadshow. Celebrating the history of film, theatre, music and television **8.00** Hornby: A Model World. The record producer Pete Waterman is commissioned to construct a monster layout (4/10) (AD) **9.00** Scouting for Toys. The toy auctioneers prepare a vast collection of *Star Wars* memorabilia for sale (1/10) (AD) **10.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. The team restores a 1988 Golf GTI Convertible (AD) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering (1/12) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Train Truckers. Moving a 100-ton diesel engine **2.00** Sounds of the Seventies **3.00** Teleshopping

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 199



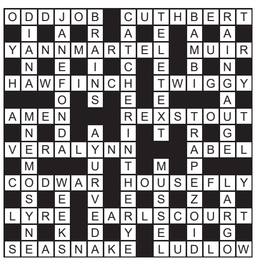
Across

1 Heat-resistant material banned from use in construction (8)
5 Pipe smoked by the Caterpillar in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (6)
10 Garden plant with white bell-shaped flowers (4,2,3,6)
11 Largely Mexican peninsula where a vast meteorite impact crater is located (7)
12 Spanish pork sausage (7)
13 Tree fruit that may also be known as a filbert (8)
15 Racing or pleasure craft (5)
18 Edward ---, real name of the pirate Blackbeard (5)
20 New York theatre street (8)
23 Jewellery house famed for its richly adorned Easter eggs (7)
25 Keyboard instrument notably used in *The Nutcracker* (7)
26 *The* ----, Hemingway novella about a fishing trip (3,3,3,3,3)
27 Traditional alpine dress (6)
28 He, she and they, eg (8)

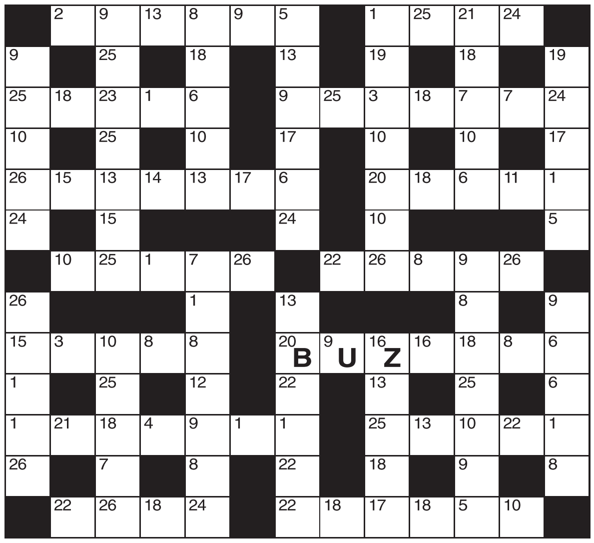
Down

1 Roderick ---, urbane sleuth created by Ngaio Marsh (6)
2 Tight-fitting woollen garment covering the head and face (9)
3 Popular name for the dog breed formerly known as an Aberdeen terrier (7)
4 1960s writer of the plays *Loot* and *What the Butler Saw* (5)
6 Art of public speaking (7)
7 Indian dairy dessert often flavoured with pistachio (5)
8 Rita ---, star of the 1946 film noir *Gilda* (8)
9 Shakespeare character who declares: "A plague o' both your houses" (8)
14 Argon or xenon, eg (5,3)
16 President of Romania deposed in 1989 (9)
17 County town situated between Stoke-on-Trent and Birmingham (8)
19 US university based in Cambridge, Massachusetts (7)
21 Mammal whose species include the common bottlenose (7)
22 Brazilian city of more than two million people located within the Amazon rainforest (6)
24 Douglas ---, remarkable Second World War pilot (5)
25 Drink in the title of books by Laurie Lee and John Irving (5)

Last week's solution



Codeword No 5009



A ~~B~~ C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T ~~U~~ V W X Y ~~Z~~

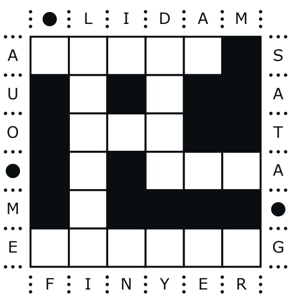
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
								U				

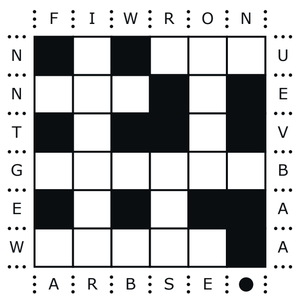
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Z				B						

Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

Cluelines **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

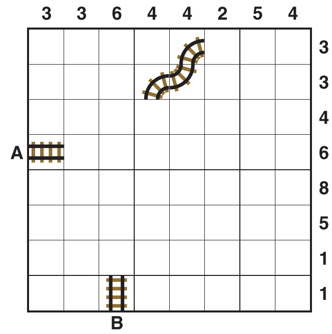
Lexica No 7051 No 7052





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 2042



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Hold back noblewoman briefly (3)

_ _ _

2 Primate in hole murmuring (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Phone spy circling British island (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Errand boy concealing crime in church residence (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Actor playing a red giant (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

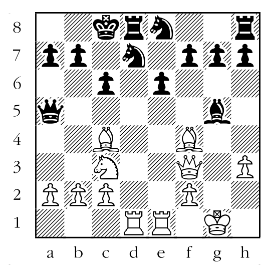
A	A	A	A	A	B	D	D
E	E	E	E	G	G	I	I
L	L	M	M	M	N	N	O
O	P	R	R	R	S	T	U

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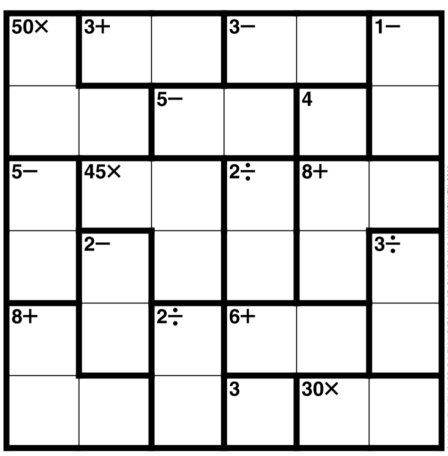
Winning Move



White to play. This position from Kesselmeier-Stoisavljevic, World Rapid Team Championship, Dusseldorf 2023.

This team competition is a new event that featured many of the top players in the world. How did White set his opponent insoluble problems?

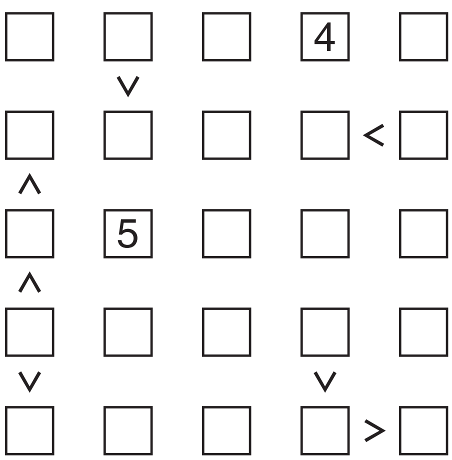
KenKen Easy No 6001



All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

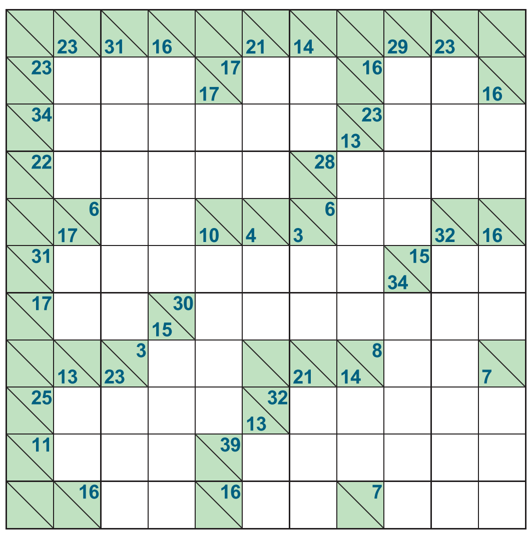
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Futoshiki No 4566



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

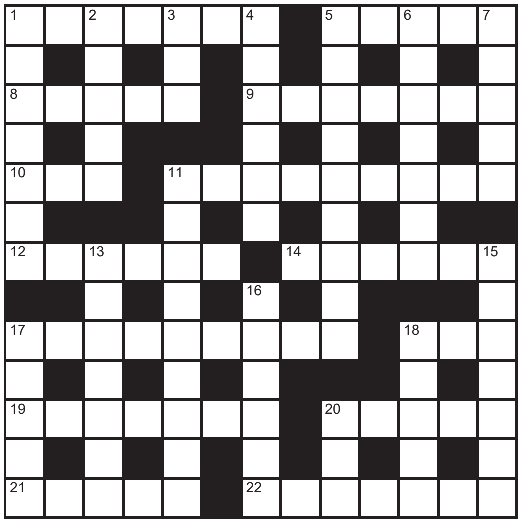
Kakuro No 3525



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

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times2 Crossword No 9325



Across
1 Respire (7)
5 Concentration (5)
8 Incorrect (5)
9 Lacking comfort, austere (7)
10 Climbing plant (3)
11 Joyously observe (a special occasion) (9)
12 Spinach and cabbage, eg (6)
14 Cricket bat wood (6)
17 Size, extent (9)
18 Container for jam, eg (3)
19 Motoring guide (4,3)
20 Wild having been tame (5)
21 Horse (5)
22 Powerful ruler (7)

Down
1 Delivering a cricket ball (7)
2 Dark hardwood (5)
3 Pull sharply (3)
4 Without difficulty (6)
5 Raspberry brandy (9)
6 Cry of disapproval (7)
7 Lightly burn (5)
11 Made definite (9)
13 Inscribe (7)
15 Quavering singer (7)
16 --- patch, period of success (6)
17 Schoolwork results (5)
18 Courtroom panel member (5)
20 Dandy (3)

Solution to Crossword 9324



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

The 46th World Bridge Teams Championships took place late last month in Marrakesh, a week before the earthquake that devastated the city.

We'll begin our look with a quietly beautiful 1NT doubled — both sides battling for their seventh trick. West didn't get the defence off to the best start — leading a club — but at least it didn't give away a trick. Declarer beat East's ten with the king and led the queen of diamonds.

East won the king and found the best switch to a low spade, West winning the king and returning a low spade to the nine and ace. Declarer now rattled off four more club tricks, leaving this ending as dummy's last club was led.

North: ♠J ♥1097 ♦6 ♣8 (led)
West: ♠104 ♥Q8 ♦A4 ♣-
East: ♠Q7 ♥AJ5 ♦9 ♣-
South: ♠- ♥K643 ♦J10 ♣-

All three players discarded a heart — West careful to retain the four of diamonds, a crucial move but not immediately obvious. At trick nine, declarer led a diamond to his jack. West won the ace and led the four of spades, East winning the queen, and in the three-card ending across, East returned the seven to West's ten.

What could declarer discard? He was squeezed. Baring the king of hearts would enable West to

Dealer: North, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams

North: ♠J82 ♥1097 ♦63 ♣A9872
West: ♠K1043 ♥Q82 ♦A42 ♣654
East: ♠Q975 ♥AJ5 ♦K987 ♣J10
South: ♠A6 ♥K643 ♦QJ105 ♣KQ3

S	W	N	E
		Pass	1♣(1)
1NT(2)	Dbl(3)	End	

(1) Playing Strong and Fives (opening 1♣ with almost all balanced hands), and aggressive openings.
(2) Showing 15-19 balanced.
(3) Marginal especially within an aggressive opening-bid style.

Contract: 1NT Dbled, Opening Lead: ♣6

North: ♠- ♥1097 ♦- ♣-
West: ♠10 ♥Q ♦4 ♣-
East: ♠7 (led) ♥AJ ♦- ♣-
South: ♠- ♥K6 ♦10 ♣-

lead the queen of hearts to East's ace (felling the king) and enjoy the promoted jack. When, in practice, declarer let go of the ten of diamonds, West had the pleasure of enjoying the four of diamonds length winner, his partner scoring the last trick with the ace of hearts. One down.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 31 → x 2 → – 6 → ⅛ OF IT → SQUARE IT → – 13 → 50% OF IT → – 7 → x 3 → + 15 → ANSWER

MEDIUM 97 → + 25 → + ½ OF IT → x 3 → + 75 → 50% OF IT → + 112 → + ¼ OF IT → 90% OF IT → – 89 → ANSWER

HARDER 235 → + 876 → x 3 → + 417 → 70% OF IT → – 887 → + ½ OF IT → + 774 → x 2 → – 858 → ANSWER

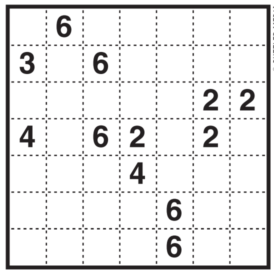
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 14 words, average; 19, good; 23, very good; 28, excellent

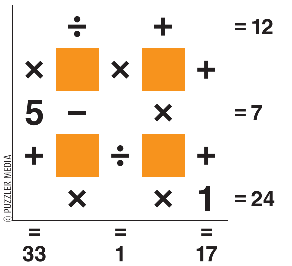
Saturday's answers
amuck, anuric, arcing, auric, cairn, cami, caring, carking, cigar, crag, cram, cran, cranium, crank, crim, crunk, cumin, guck, incur, karmic, kick, knack, mack, magic, manic, marc, mica, mick, mucin, muck, **muckraking**, narc, nick, racing, rack, rick, ruck, runic

Cell Blocks No 4892



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

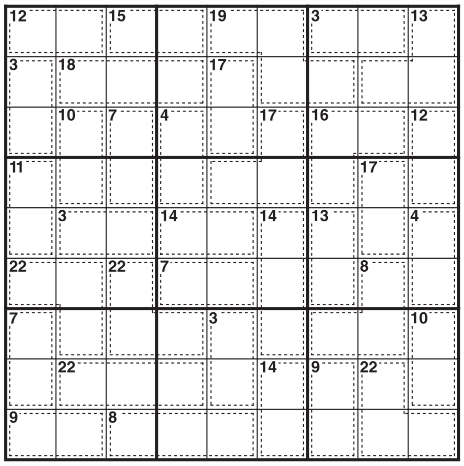
Set Square No 3528



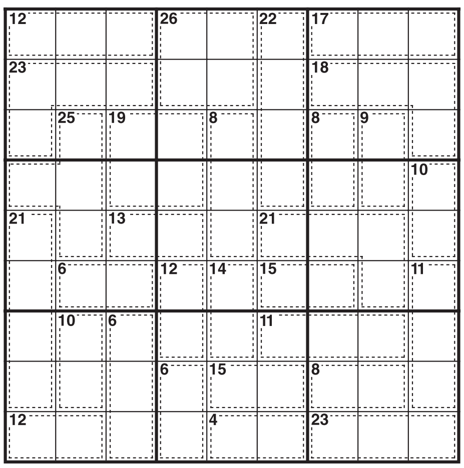
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Gentle No 9073



Killer Tricky No 9074

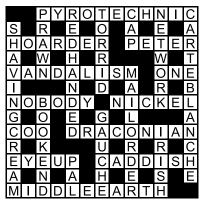


As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

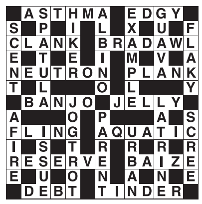
Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

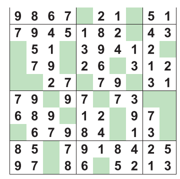
Quick Cryptic 2484



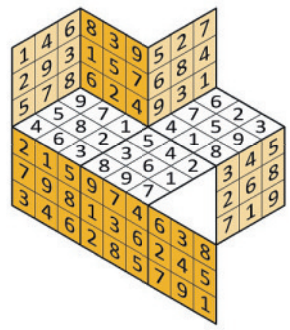
Codeword 5008



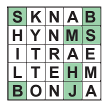
Kakuro 3524



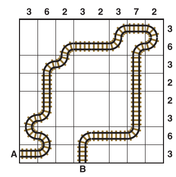
Tredoku 1803



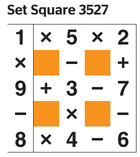
Square Routes 236



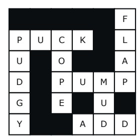
Train Tracks 2041



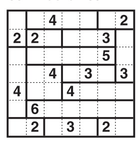
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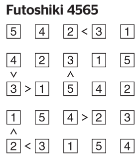
Lexica 7049



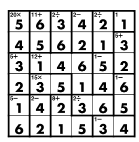
Cell Blocks 4891



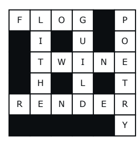
Futoshiki 4565



KenKen 6000



Lexica 7050



Sudoku 14,328

1	7	9	6	8	2	3	5	4
6	3	4	7	5	9	2	8	1
8	5	2	1	4	3	7	9	6
7	4	6	5	1	8	9	2	3
2	1	5	3	9	4	8	6	7
3	9	8	2	6	7	1	4	5
5	2	1	8	7	6	4	3	9
4	8	7	9	3	5	6	1	2
9	6	3	4	2	1	5	7	8

Killer 9072

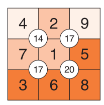
8	7	1	4	9	3	6	2	5
2	4	5	8	7	6	1	9	3
6	9	3	2	1	5	8	4	7
5	8	6	3	2	4	9	7	1
4	2	7	1	6	9	3	5	8
1	3	9	5	8	7	2	6	4
7	1	4	6	3	2	5	8	9
3	5	2	9	4	8	7	1	6
9	6	8	7	5	1	4	3	2

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 New
2 Mary
3 Stock
4 Saint Peter
5 Port of call

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Dam
2 Lemur
3 Mobile
4 Parsonage
5 Tragedian

Suko 3910



Brain Trainer
Easy 48
Medium 388
Harder 5,904

Word watch
Superciliary (c) Related to the eyebrows (*Collins*)
Hikikomori (b) Withdrawal from society (*Chambers*)
Ramous (b) Pertaining to branches (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move
1 b4! overloads the black queen. After 1 ... Qf5 (to maintain protection of the g5-bishop) White finishes with the classical combination 2 Qxc6+! bxc6 3 Ba6 mate. Relatively best is 1 ... Qxb4 but after 2 Bxg5 f6 3 Bxe6 fxg5 4 Rxd7 Rxd7 5 Bxd7+ Kxd7 6 Rd1+ gives a winning attack

Quiz
1 Earth **2** Diamonds
3 German (measles)
4 *Macbeth*, as in Macduff
5 Fingerprint **6** Halfords
7 *Walker, Texas Ranger*
8 *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
9 Athelstan **10** David Lynch
11 Bill Plympton **12** Tomas Masaryk **13** Skittles
14 Monza or Autodromo Nazionale Monza
15 Dodie Smith

THE TIMES

18.09.23

MindGames

For extra puzzles
See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Superciliary
a Providing additional support
b Beyond the sky
c Related to the eyebrows

Hikikomori
a A reminder of mortality
b Withdrawal from society
c An educational method

Ramous
a Boisterous, unruly
b Pertaining to branches
c The killer whale

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Easy No 14,329

		1		6		4		2
2			7			9		
			2		5	6	1	8
	4	5			1	8		
			4	8				3
		6		2		1	9	
	7		8		4			1
	1	3			7			
							4	

Difficult No 14,330

			5			8		
		4	2		7			
				8	3			5
		5			9		4	2
4		3				1		9
2	9		7			3		
9			1	4				
			8		6	5		
		6			5			

Fiendish No 14,331

1							7	
					2			1
	6		5			8		
9					7	5	8	
				4	5	3		7
2					8	1	9	
	4		1			7		
					6			5
5							4	

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 Taken by the crew of Apollo 17, *The Blue Marble* is a famous photograph of which planet?

2 A "diamantaire" is an expert in the cutting of which gemstones?

3 Which nationality features in the common name for the contagious viral infection rubella?

4 The title character of which Shakespeare play is killed by the Thane of Fife?

5 The tented arch and radial loop are types of which print pattern?

6 Named after a street in Leicester, what is "the UK's largest bike shop"?



7 Which 1993-2001 US TV drama was inspired by the Chuck Norris film *Lone Wolf McQuade*?

8 The quote "The age of chivalry is gone" comes from which 1790 work by Edmund Burke?

9 Which Anglo-Saxon king annexed the Viking kingdom of York in 927?

10 *BlueBOB* is the 2001 debut album by audio engineer John Neff and which US film director?

11 *The Tune* (1992) was the first feature-length animated film by which American cartoonist?

12 Which president of Czechoslovakia wrote the thesis *Suicide as a mass social phenomenon of modern civilisation*?

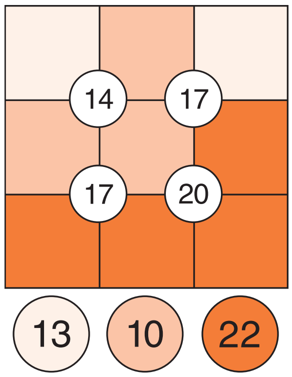
13 The game of ninepins shares which alternative name with a confectionery product?

14 Built in 1922, which Italian race track is known as the "Temple of Speed"?

15 Which English novelist (1896-1990) is this?

Answers on page 15

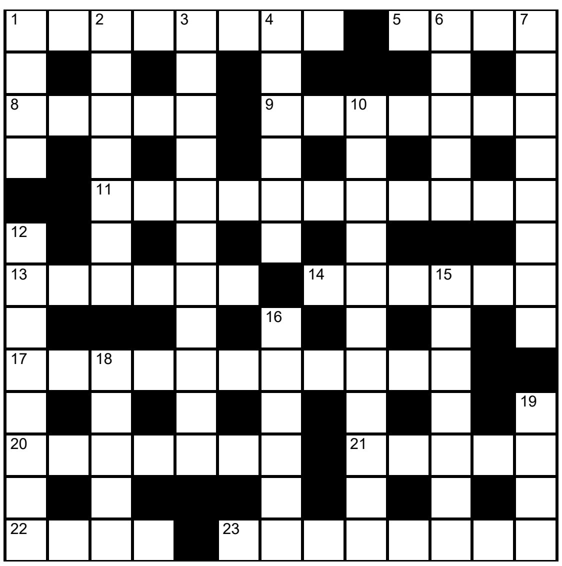
Suko No 3910



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2485 by Trelawney



Across
1 Too inept to move stealthily (2,6)
5 Recall computers making racket (4)
8 Period charm (5)
9 Places to land black items of clothing (7)
11 Low-risk snack for burglar? (4-7)
13 Intimidate blokes with club, perhaps? (6)
14 Mark almost excessively drunk (6)
17 A little gale blowing around some pasta (11)
20 Fashion designer skirting northern body of water (7)
21 Animal seen regularly in Aztec burial (5)
22 Require some gene editing (4)
23 Strangely, inert gas is fuming the most? (8)

Down
1 Expel leaders of our university skiing team (4)
2 Finally invent rationale for betrayal (7)
3 Beat up cop in lift for Tarantino film (4,7)
4 Protest's purpose (6)
6 Prison beginning to concern couple (5)
7 Cry from a sled — space for fungus? (8)
10 Pioneer with time to complain furiously over jacket (11)
12 Once omit weird digital symbol (8)
15 Shudder when head of museum breaks three cups? (7)
16 Pinched scarf close to town (6)
18 Look intently around river and eat grass (5)
19 Final piece of plastic (4)

Friday's solution on page 15



THE TIMES
thegame
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18 2023
All the action from the weekend

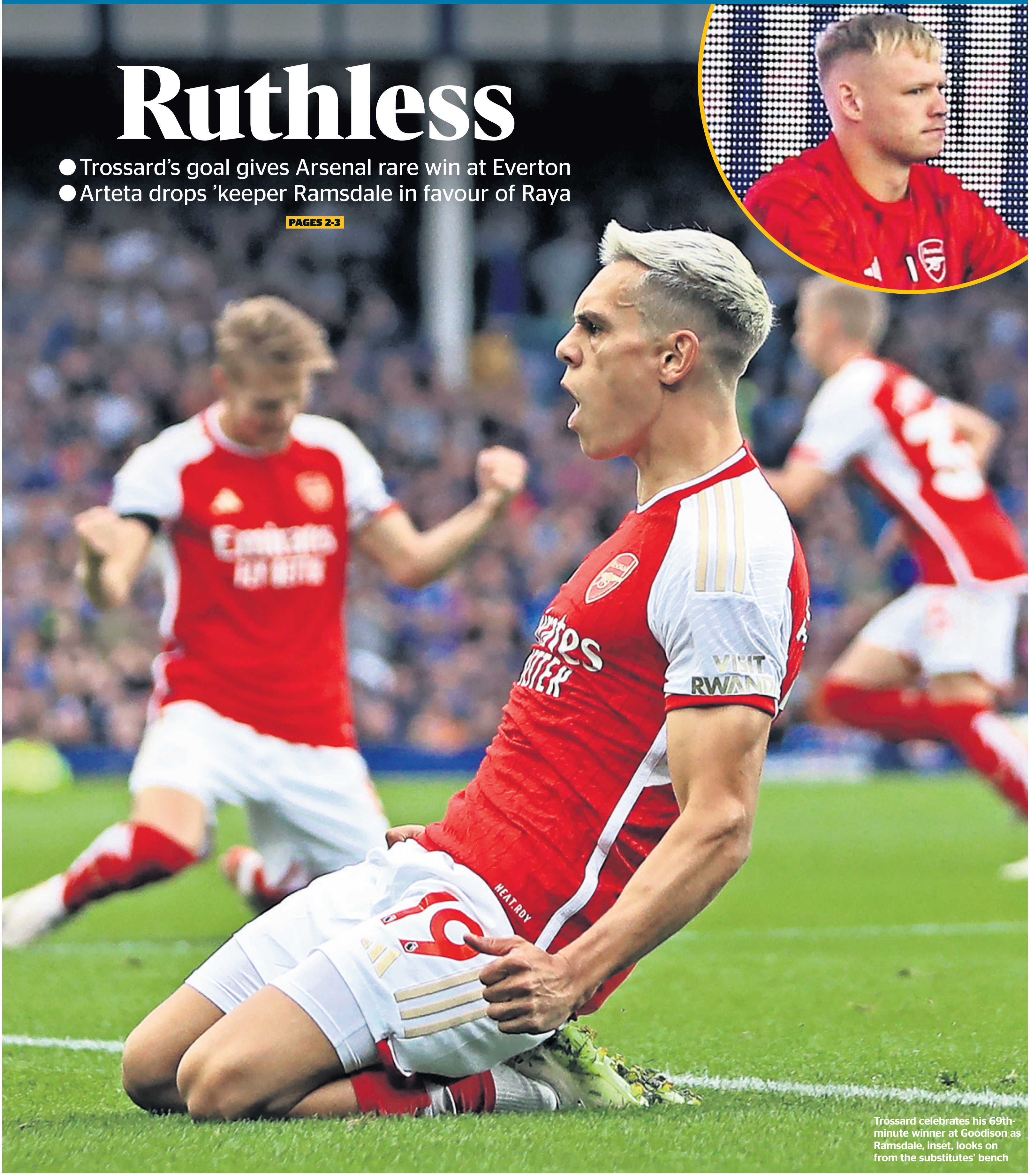
PAGES 4-5
Chelsea's £1bn team are booed as they fire blanks at Bournemouth

PAGES 10-11
Ian Hawkey: AC Milan travails are great news for Newcastle

Ruthless

- Trossard's goal gives Arsenal rare win at Everton
- Arteta drops 'keeper Ramsdale in favour of Raya

PAGES 2-3



BRADLEY COLLYER/PA

Trossard celebrates his 69th-minute winner at Goodison as Ramsdale, inset, looks on from the substitutes' bench

Rice is a rock as Arsenal end their Everton misery

Everton	Arsenal
0	1
	Trossard 69

POSSESSION
26% 74%

SHOTS ON TARGET
1 4

FOULS
12 10

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Man City	5	5	0	0	14	3	11	15
Tottenham	5	4	1	0	13	5	8	13
Liverpool	5	4	1	0	12	4	8	13
Arsenal	5	4	1	0	9	4	5	13
Brighton	5	4	0	1	15	7	8	12
West Ham	5	3	1	1	10	7	3	10
Aston Villa	5	3	0	2	11	10	1	9
Crystal Palace	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
Fulham	5	2	1	2	5	10	-5	7
Brentford	5	1	3	1	8	6	2	6
Newcastle	5	2	0	3	8	7	1	6
Nottm Forest	4	2	0	2	6	6	0	6
Man Utd	5	2	0	3	6	10	-4	6
Chelsea	5	1	2	2	5	5	0	5
Bournemouth	5	0	3	2	4	8	-4	3
Wolves	5	1	0	4	5	11	-6	3
Sheffield Utd	5	0	1	4	5	9	-4	1
Everton	5	0	1	4	2	9	-7	1
Burnley	3	0	0	3	3	11	-8	0
Luton	4	0	0	4	2	10	-8	0

RATINGS

Everton (4-1-4-1): J Pickford 6 — A Young 7 (N Patterson 87min), J Tarkowski 7, J Branthwaite 8, V Mykolenko 7 — A Onana 6 — A Danjuma 6, I Gueye 6, A Doucouré 6 (J Garner 80), D McNeil 6 (Y Chermiti 88) — Beto 6 (D Calvert-Lewin 66, 6).
Booked Young.
Arsenal (4-3-3): D Raya 7 — B White 7, W Saliba 7, Gabriel 7, O Zinchenko 7 (T Tomiyasu 80) — M Odegaard 7, D Rice 7, F Vieira 6 (K Havertz 80) — B Saka 7, E Nketiah 6 (G Jesus 66, 6), G Martinelli 6 (L Trossard 24, 8).
Booked Gabriel.
Referee S Hooper.

12

Clean sheets away from home in the Premier League for Arsenal since the start of last season — five more than any other side (Fulham and Man City)

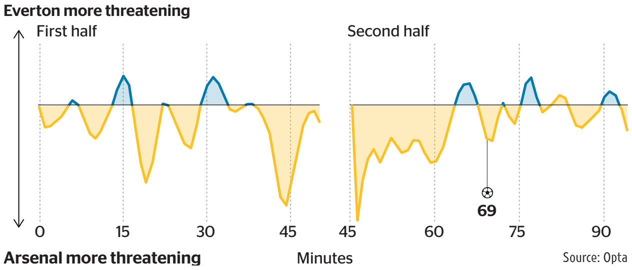
HENRY WINTER



Chief Football Writer
at Goodison Park

A DOMINANT 1-0

Although the result was in doubt throughout the game, this graphic of the match momentum shows how dominant Arteta's side were, and how Everton only held sway for brief periods



It seemed wrong that such an ugly beast of a game should be decided by a goal so beautiful, so memorable in a match so forgettable. Leandro Trossard's elegant finish of a quickfire six-man move seemed more than a goal for Arsenal. It felt a statement. It showed that they could break down defiant defensive blocks, that they had the patience, intelligence and precision to score, secure their first win at Goodison Park in six years and rise to fourth in the Premier League.

It was far from pretty, but it was effective. They quietened the Everton choirs, coped with any post-international blues and won without playing well. They deserved this, and needed this, if they are to have any hope of preventing Manchester City disappearing completely over the horizon. City look unstoppable. How galling it would be for Arsenal, in the year they celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Invincibles, if City went through the league season unbeaten. The sides meet at the Emirates on October 8 but already the top of the league has a feel of the fight for second. Arsenal certainly knew they could not drop points and Trossard delivered.

The 28-year-old Belgian arrived on the scene when Gabriel Martinelli limped off after 23 minutes with what Mikel Arteta described as a "muscular issue". Trossard's goal shimmered like an oasis in the most arid of deserts. It reflected Arsenal's cleverness and preparation; rather than lobbing corners on top of Everton's centre backs, James Tarkowski and Jarrad Branthwaite, they played some corners short.

It paid off after 69 minutes when Bukayo Saka and Martin Odegaard worked a short corner on the right, and Odegaard stroked the ball across to Fabio Vieira, who deserved his start ahead of the underwhelming Kai Havertz. Everton were slow to respond to the danger suddenly building just outside, rather than inside, their area. Tarkowski, such a tireless, selfless competitor for Everton, did spot the threat quicker than his team-mates and rushed out to the edge of the area.

Too late. Arsenal were going through the gears, putting together a rapid passing move, the ball pinging between friendly feet as if doing a two-touch rondo at London Colney. Vieira: control, pass. Oleksandr Zinchenko: control, pass. Odegaard: control, pass. Now it was one touch, the space opened, the jugular exposed. Saka: pass. Trossard: shot. It was all so simple, so devastating and so reflective of the technical qualities in Arteta's squad.

Trossard had dropped into a pocket of space, let Saka's cutback carry across his body, before ramming his left foot into the ball and sending it flying past Jordan Pickford. Trossard's ability to manipulate the ball with either foot, a quality he has worked hard on, makes him even more effective in tight situations such as this.

Arsenal celebrated wildly then and at the final whistle. As captured in their recent record here, Arsenal have struggled against Everton's frequently physical approach, especially when Amadou Onana and Abdoulaye Doucouré are mixing it in midfield.

Arsenal's new signing Declan Rice accepted and relished the challenge. He was outstanding, the rock on which this win was built, making two interceptions, blocking a shot and winning four of his six duels. Rice's numbers also highlighted an even more creative performance than simply quelling Everton players. He made 14 passes into the final third. Rice is maturing into an all-round midfield force, needing only to add more goals.

His England team-mate Aaron Ramsdale was dropped for David Raya, a change that had been trailed but still felt harsh on the Arsenal No1. Ramsdale has done nothing wrong, but Arteta said afterwards that he wants that competition while Raya also offers more controlled distribution.

Everton could only dream of the finesse that defined Arsenal's goal. They lacked creativity and a cutting edge. Beto worked hard but could not escape Gabriel. Dominic Calvert-Lewin came on, wearing a mask to protect a facial injury, but failed to trouble Raya. Everton's most impressive unit had been their back line, and especially Branthwaite until Trossard struck midway through the second period.

The first half was so poor and so devoid of entertainment, barring a couple of magnificent Zinchenko passes, that it was easily possible to reflect at length on Everton's off-field woes without being distracted by any noteworthy events unfolding in the middle. Everton are drifting on and off the pitch.

Wretched leadership has led Everton to a position where they are effectively a distressed asset and are heading into ownership by an American group who have plenty of questions to answer, not least about funds. Some transparency and proper communication with long-suffering supporters would be a start. When the Goodison DJ announced the gate of 39,217 early in the second half, many Everton fans applauded. They are loyal.

Everton are urgently in need of strong, enlightened, well-resourced leadership. It's sad to see them like this, a famous institution looking dishevelled and very down at heel, worrying about the present, the future and desperate for any owner. This is the club dating from 1878, one of the founders of the Football League and the Premier League, a club of so much history, with one fan hurrying into Goodison proudly wearing a retro shirt from the 1985 European Cup Winners' Cup final.

Their squad is painfully in need of improving, and it took more than a half an hour before Everton managed a touch in Arsenal's area. Most of the action was down the other end. Eddie Nketiah and Vieira sent Martinelli down the inside-left channel to place his shot in past Pickford. Arsenal fans celebrated, but Nketiah was shown to be offside by VAR. Everton supporters celebrated. Arsenal fans responded with "you're going down" and then embarrassed themselves by telling the locals to "sign on".

Doucouré then juggled the ball over Rice's head and drove promisingly into the box before falling between William Saliba and Rice. The referee, Simon Hooper, rightly deemed any contact accidental. Sean Dyche was unimpressed and Everton's manager became increasingly annoyed by Arsenal players going down, apparently hurt, particularly Saliba when taking an accidental arm to the neck from Beto as they challenged for an aerial ball. It was hardly forceful, certainly not deserving of Saliba's anguished response.

Whatever Everton's frustration, Arsenal were by far the more positive. Pickford twice saved from Odegaard but had no chance against Trossard.

Everton's frustration intensified when the fourth official, Anthony Taylor, signalled only four minutes' additional time, which seemed miserly, but they deserved nothing here.



Trossard, a first-half substitute for the injured Martinelli, curls his shot around

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER



Pickford for the only goal at Goodison Park. Victory was Arsenal's first at Everton for almost six years and maintained their unbeaten start to the season, while Everton remain without a Premier League win

Change goalkeeper during the game? Why not, says Arteta

PAUL JOYCE

Mikel Arteta attempted to deflect attention from his decision to select David Raya ahead of Aaron Ramsdale in Arsenal's win over Everton and predicted the next trend in the Premier League will be in-game goalkeeper substitutions.

The Arsenal manager offered an intriguing insight into his thinking by revealing he has regretted not bringing on a fresh goalkeeper in matches on two occasions, bemoaning his lack of "courage" as a coach to make the unusual change.

He would not divulge if they were games in Arsenal's ultimately forlorn title challenge last season, but said they had ended in costly draws.

Raya made his Arsenal debut after a loan move from Brentford which could become a permanent £27 million deal as Ramsdale was left kicking his heels on the bench.

The absence of Ramsdale, who made the PFA team of the year and started for England in the friendly victory over Scotland last week, proved a big talking point in Arsenal's 1-0 win, though Arteta sought to defuse any sense of controversy.

"It is the same rationale about why Fabio [Vieira] played here or Eddie [Nketiah] ahead of Gabriel Jesus," he said. "I haven't had a single question on why Gabriel Jesus didn't start. He has won more trophies than anybody else, including me, in that dressing room.

"I cannot have two players in each position and not play them. David has tremendous qualities, like Aaron has, like Karl [Hein] has, and we have to use them.

"I am a really young manager and I have only been in the job for 3½ years and I have few regrets in what we have done. One of them is that on two occasions I felt after 60 minutes, and 85 minutes, in two games to change the goalkeeper and I didn't do it.

"I didn't have the courage to do it but I am able to take a winger, or a striker and put a central defender back and go to a back five to hold that result. And we drew those games and I was so unhappy.

"Someone is going to do it and maybe it [the reaction] will be, 'Oh! That is strange. Why?' Why not? Tell me, why not? You have all the qualities in another goalkeeper and you want to do something to change the momentum, do it. It is a regret I have and my feeling is to get everyone engaged in the team. They have to play regardless of the competition. Do it. That is my message."



Hertha Berlin fans protest against 777 Partners, a US firm which has a stake in the German club and has agreed a takeover with Everton. One banner addresses the co-founder: "Wander: The only thing we assure you of is our disapproval of you"

Raya was rarely tested with an insipid Everton managing only one shot on target, but the Spain international's ease with the ball at his feet was evident as Arsenal won at Goodison Park for the first time since 2017. It is unclear whether Raya, 28, will now face PSV Eindhoven in the Champions League on Wednesday, but when Arteta was asked how he wanted Ramsdale to respond he said: "The same way as Gabriel Jesus, the same as Kai Havertz, the same as [Takehiro] Tomiyasu. Exactly the same. We play with 11 players, not ten plus one."

Jordan Pickford will not look back on the afternoon fondly either, with the Everton goalkeeper guilty of an ambitious clearance that did not come off and instead allowed Arsenal to force the corner from which Leandro Trossard scored in the 69th minute.

Overall, Everton were unambitious and gave little encouragement to the home crowd. They managed only 154 successful passes compared with Arsenal's 600 and with an accuracy rate of only 67 per cent.

In Sean Dyche's first match in charge last February against the same opponents, they had performed with far more intent but that template was not copied here.

Everton have a solitary point after five games and remain entrenched in the relegation zone at the end of a week in which the owner Farhad Moshiri agreed the sale of the club to American firm 777 Partners, subject to approval from the Premier League, FA and Financial Conduct Authority.

"I spoke very clearly at the end of last season that nothing was solved, that there was massive work to be done," Dyche said. "I must say, I thought we would have more points on the board, because of our performance levels, but the league doesn't lie. Therefore, that's that.

"Against Arsenal, it's a tough ask. They played well. But, from our side, we can't give the ball away that often."

Boos for the £1bn team that

Bournemouth	Chelsea
0	0

RATINGS
Bournemouth (4-2-3-1): Neto 8 — M Aarons 7, I Zabarnyi 7, L Kelly, M Kerkez 7 (M Senesi 74min) — R Christie 7 (D Brooks 89), L Cook 7 — D Ouattara 7 (J Kluivert 63, 7), P Billing 7, M Tavernier 7 (L Sinisterra 74) — D Solanke 7.
Booked Kerkez.
Chelsea (4-2-3-1): R Sánchez 8 — M Gusto 6, A Disasi 6, Thiago Silva 7, L Colwill 6 (B Chilwell 81) — C Gallagher 7, L Ugochukwu 7 — R Sterling 7, E Fernandez 6 (I Maatsen, 81), M Mudryk 5 (C Palmer 63, 6) — N Jackson 6.
Booked Mudryk, Disasi, Jackson, Sterling.
Referee D Coote.
Attendance 10,421.

ALYSON RUDD

Bournemouth are the side that has now suffered nine successive Premier League games without victory but the weight of disappointment was felt more by Chelsea, a team in transition and without too much in the way of spark and endeavour.

It is just as well they do not have a game in Europe this coming week because they need to work out who they want to be and how to convert possession into goals.

They have scored only five goals in five league matches, their lowest return since 1995. If you had been wondering which club would play a part in providing the first 0-0 of the campaign, then here was your not-so-shocking answer. The Chelsea fans veered from encouraging to highly miffed. At the end a section of the travelling support jeered, causing Ben Chilwell, who had approached them to thank them for their support, to hold out his hands in a gesture of apology.

Mauricio Pochettino said the fans' response was a consequence of the "expectation" that surrounds a club of Chelsea's stature.

"We have too many players [out], of course we are a team that will be strong if we are all together," the Chelsea head coach said. "We don't have all the squad available from the beginning of the season. What can we do? For me I have nothing to say. The fans can do whatever they want. We know what we need to do, we are strong in our belief. We have had bad luck. We had 12 injured [out] today. Then we have three or four young guys and two keepers on the bench. Am I going to cry, am I going to complain? I need to accept this, the challenge, and keep being positive."

Chelsea seem to be adrift before they even kick off these days. Yet again, the starting line-up was not one that could have been easily predicted. It is like attending a family wedding, expecting to see favourite cousins and beloved aunts and uncles only to stand for the toasts recognising very few people indeed.

Chilwell, given that he is fit among that raft of injuries, was surprisingly dropped to the bench, with Levi Colwill taking the left-back slot. But, then again, despite how Chelsea lined up in pre-season, it is not necessarily the case that Pochettino regards Chilwell as a full back at all. Lesley Ugochukwu made his Premier League debut in midfield and Mykhailo Mudryk was awarded his first start of the season, despite offering little of late to illustrate why such faith should be placed in him. His start summed up his contributions at the club. The Ukrainian was easily dispossessed but moments later unsettled the home team with a burst of pace.

Overall, though, Chelsea lack the aura of a big club and Bournemouth were unafraid to press high and be adventurous, the preferred approach of Andoni Iraola, the head coach.

WASTEFUL CHELSEA

Chelsea have only scored five league goals but have created chances worth more than twice as many. Statisticians use the term 'expected goals' to measure the value of chances created, and only Everton have a worse record this season when the actual number of goals a team has scored is compared to the value of chances. That suggests Chelsea are missing a lot of chances they should score - or being denied by outstanding goalkeeping

	Expected goals	Goals	Difference
Brighton & Hove Albion	10.71	15	4.29
Tottenham Hotspur	9.47	13	3.53
West Ham United	8.07	10	1.93
Liverpool	10.23	12	1.77
Sheffield United	3.53	5	1.47
Nottingham Forest	4.54	6	1.46
Manchester City	12.57	14	1.43
Burnley	2.41	3	0.59
Fulham	4.93	5	0.07
Aston Villa	11.33	11	-0.33
Arsenal	9.35	9	-0.35
Newcastle United	8.36	8	-0.36
Crystal Palace	6.99	6	-0.99
Wolverhampton Wanderers	7.37	5	-2.37
Luton Town	4.48	2	-2.48
Brentford	10.53	8	-2.53
Bournemouth	6.6	4	-2.6
Manchester United	9.01	6	-3.01
Chelsea	10.13	5	-5.13
Everton	7.58	2	-5.58

POCHETTINO'S ENGLISH TRAVEL SICKNESS

Pochettino is now without a win in any of his past 14 away PL games as Tottenham and Chelsea manager

Feb 23, 2019
Burnley 2 .... Tottenham 1
Feb 27, 2019
Chelsea 2 .... Tottenham 0
Mar 9, 2019
Southampton 2 .... Tottenham 1
Mar 31, 2019
Liverpool 2 .... Tottenham 1
Apr 20, 2019
Man City 1 .... Tottenham 0
May 4, 2019
Bournemouth 1 .... Tottenham 0
Aug 17, 2019
Man City 2 .... Tottenham 2
Sep 1, 2019
Arsenal 2 .... Tottenham 2
Sep 21, 2019
Leicester 2 .... Tottenham 1
Oct 5, 2019
Brighton 3 .... Tottenham 0
Oct 27, 2019
Liverpool 2 .... Tottenham 1
Nov 3, 2019
Everton 1 .... Tottenham 1
Aug 20, 2023
West Ham 3 .... Chelsea 1
Yesterday
Bournemouth 0 .... Chelsea 0



One of Pochettino's problems has been converting possession into goals and so, when a strike from Nicolas Jackson struck the post, no one, including Neto, the excellent Bournemouth goalkeeper, was terribly surprised. Jackson has now been cautioned four times this season for dissent, a clear sign of a striker frustrated and whose only goal so far came against Luton Town at Stamford Bridge.

"He's a striker and he needs to score," Pochettino said. "He is disappointed and frustrated, when something happens sometimes he complains."

The home side were left frustrated too but had more fun. After Chelsea failed to clear a free kick, Dango Ouattara rushed towards goal with only Robert Sánchez in his path, but the Chelsea goalkeeper spread himself well to deny the winger. Decision-making was the undoing of Iraola's players as they too frequently entered the final third with the wrong plan in mind. Ryan Christie's cross into the box was good enough, as was the way Philip Billing nonchalantly brought the ball down, but the tall Dane then seemed uncertain what to do with it.

Chelsea perform as if a diluted version of what they could be, which is due in part to the fact that an imposing team could be constructed entirely from those who are injured, including Moisés Caicedo who has a slight knee issue.

Mudryk was booked for a poor challenge on Max Aarons and the away fans urged their team to attack. There was the danger, as half-time approached, that the game plan, to take advantage of the home team's adventurous spirit, was unravelling. Both coaches needed a debrief but Pochettino needed to be the more acerbic at the interval.

A free kick for a foul by Aarons on Mudryk at the start of the second half indicated a sense of renewed optimism, and Raheem Sterling's effort struck the woodwork. The ball rebounded to Colwill for a tap-in, but the defender was clearly offside and so the sense of despair returned, heightened when Jackson used his power to create a chance to shoot only to do so wildly. A strike from Lewis Cook was far crisper but easily held by Sánchez as the home team applied increased pressure.

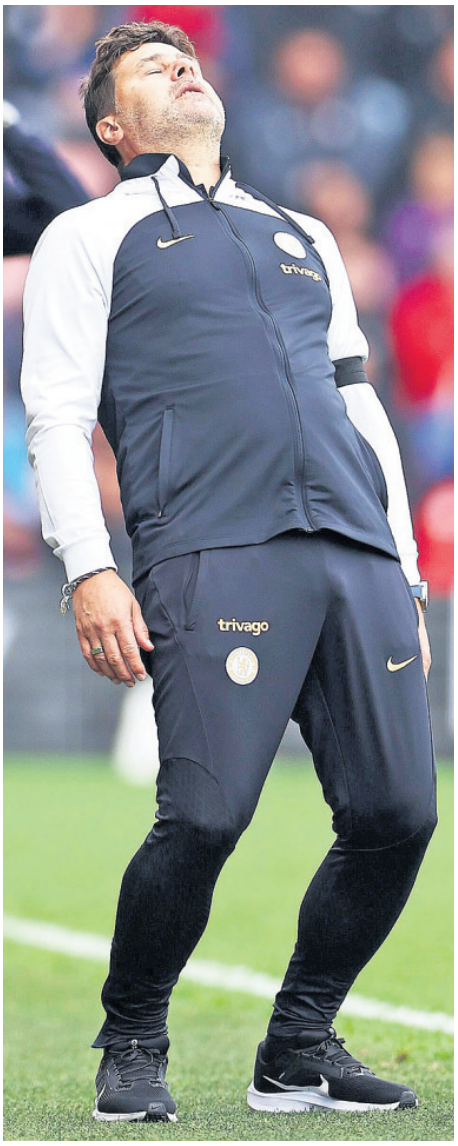
A goalmouth scramble ensued from a Chelsea counter but, even then, they failed to capitalise as the game became stretched. The introduction of Justin Kluivert added enough pace to unsettle the visitors and the winger was hacked down by Axel Disasi just outside the area. The subsequent free kick was blocked by Conor Gallagher.

A fine effort from Dominic Solanke was saved by Sánchez and Neto saved well from Cole Palmer, but in general the finishing was frustrating, not least when Solanke seemed certain to give the home side the lead only to fail to connect at all. It seemed the Chelsea malaise was contagious. This was Iraola's first clean sheet but few teams will be as toothless at the Vitality Stadium. Indeed, Pochettino has failed to win any of his past 14 Premier League away games and looks and sounds just as annoyed as Jackson.

can’t score goals

MATTHEW CHILDS, MATT IMPEY/SHUTTERSTOCK





Pochettino endured another frustrating afternoon, above, as Chelsea were held to a goalless draw by Neto and Bournemouth, left

Hudson-Odoi ‘can have big impact’

CHARLOTTE DUNCKER

After a difficult few years for Callum Hudson-Odoi, Steve Cooper believes that he has the right formula to get the 22-year-old back to his best.

Back in 2019, when he was handed his senior England debut by Gareth Southgate, the winger was backed as one of the brightest young talents in the country.

His performances for Chelsea resulted in interest from Bayern Munich, who wanted to take him on loan with an obligation to buy for £70 million, but he was so highly thought of at Cobham that they wanted to keep him.

Fast-forward to this summer, and after a difficult loan spell at Bayer Leverkusen, where he made only 14 league appearances, Hudson-Odoi left Chelsea for Nottingham Forest for an initial £3 million.

But for Cooper, who worked with the winger when he was manager of England’s Under-17 World Cup-winning squad in 2017, it is not as big a risk as some might think.

“He had that achilles injury that set him back but I’m not really interested in that,” Cooper said. “I’m more interested in his progress now and his development and his everyday work.

“I had a long conversation this morning with the boys, the first time we had had the group together [after the international break], about what we’re in control of and that’s on and off the pitch; the right sleep, the right food. The moment you don’t do any of those things right in the Premier League is the moment you get left behind, even if it’s a small percentage.”

Hudson-Odoi was the youngest of Cooper’s England squad six years ago, so the Forest head coach is seeing a different player now. While Cooper would not be drawn on whether or not he was surprised that Hudson-Odoi had not reached his potential, he was confident that he can help him.

“We will support him, get him to believe in himself, push him. [Give him] tough love but let him be free and understand if he does the non-negotiables right like work ethic and focus [he will succeed],” Cooper said, before tonight’s visit of Burnley.

Cooper has shown he has the ability to develop young talent, with Brennan Johnson and Morgan Gibbs-White both thriving under him, and stressed the importance of the mental side of the game, with belief being key.

“If we can get him to a certain level, the boy can have a really big impact,” Cooper said. “We’ve signed a really good player but you’re only a really good player if you prepare right, work hard and believe in yourself. If we do that, he can show what he can do.”

N Forest v Burnley, tonight, kick-off 7.45pm
TV Sky Sports Premier League/Main Event

TONY CASCARINO



Weekend talking points

Everton are a bad version of Dyche’s Burnley sides

I remember the days when Everton were truly a big club. They were one of the Bank of England teams held in the highest regard for decades for their stature, style and achievements. I cannot believe how far they have fallen in how they play. They are awful.

To watch them play hurts. They have no style and purpose and no inspiration. They play like a newly promoted side striving to survive in the top flight. They sit back and sit back and their only tactic to rescue games is to go long ball. They play Championship football and if this carries on that is where they will end up.

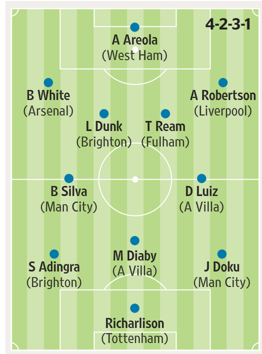
Yesterday was a good case in point. When they went behind against Arsenal, all they could do was to hoof it forward. Even worse, it wasn’t even effective for them as they didn’t lay a glove on Arsenal.

I have no problem with long-ball teams or a direct style if it works for them. Sean Dyche’s Burnley were very effective in the way they played. Dyche had some good Burnley teams — but Everton are just a bad version of his Burnley.

I played for Marseille, who had a motto on the club badge that said “Droit au But” or “Right to the goal”. In other words: attack, attack, attack. I would criticise the counterattacking, defensive style the team had adopted and expected to receive a lot of flak, but a lot of fans agreed with me and were unhappy.

About 40,000 fans turn up at Goodison to see their team, but what they see does nothing to help them lift the team. It produces only anger and boos. I don’t know how this great club have sunk so low.

TEAM OF THE WEEK



Brighton boast squad depth and top coaching

I’m not sure there is another Premier League side — and yes, I am including Manchester City here — that could make six changes to their team and still go to Old Trafford and play the home side off the park. That’s what Brighton & Hove Albion did and it tells you a lot about why they have been so successful. Firstly, it shows that the whole squad is so well coached that changing more than half of the starting line-up does not disrupt their tactical approach or dilute their strengths — for example, they dominated possession on Saturday as they generally do, even in away games. Secondly, it shows how well the Brighton squad have been built in recent transfer windows, that they seem to have at least one brilliant alternative to every first-choice player. And that was before Ansu Fati joined for the season.

Jet-lagged Casemiro and Mac Allister needed rest

I still don’t think managers fully understand the impact of jet lag on players — or if they do, they are not taking it into consideration when they pick their teams. There were two players on Saturday who were clearly miles off their usual standards and both of them had arrived back late last week from playing in South America. Casemiro looked sluggish in the middle of Manchester United’s midfield and it was the same with Alexis Mac Allister for Liverpool, who’d played for Argentina at altitude. He was so far off his usual standards — I don’t like him in that No 6 role anyway — that he was taken off at half-time. Roberto De Zerbi at Brighton knew that Pervis Estupiñán had been away with Ecuador and so he rested him — another example of him being smarter than the big clubs.

Time to revive the lost art of the diving header

I loved James Ward-Prowse’s goal against Manchester City with a diving header because you rarely see that these days. It’s a bit of a lost art — it’s a really effective way of scoring. A lot of players now are so technically confident they want to control a cross before shooting, but if you dive at the ball, it is past the goalkeeper before he’s set. I got a few in my career and I was particularly pleased with one for Gillingham against Millwall where I dived ahead of my marker, Sam Allardyce.

Underrated Wilson is a dream player for Howe

Callum Wilson is a very underrated striker but I am a big fan and I think he is a manager’s dream.

The Newcastle United and England forward has a swagger about him that reveals an inner confidence. That is also shown in his amazing penalty record — the winner from the spot against Brentford this weekend was the 15th he has scored from his last 16 and brought his eighth goal in his last seven league starts. He is a reliable goalscorer who never goes missing.

JOSE BRETON/AP



Greenwood began yesterday's match against Osasuna on the substitutes' bench, left, before being brought on in the second half by Getafe, right, in his first match for just under 20 months

PRESSINPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK



Chants of 'Die, Greenwood' but striker shines on his Getafe debut

Osasuna fans voice displeasure but on-loan United forward impresses on return to action, writes **Paul Hirst** in Madrid

"It was a good day for Mason, for Getafe, and for football," José Bordalás, the Getafe head coach, said of Mason Greenwood's debut against Osasuna yesterday.

The away fans, soaked to the bone by unseasonal showers in Madrid, disagreed.

"Muérete, Greenwood" ("die Greenwood"), they chanted as the forward came off the bench in the 75th minute of Getafe's 3-2 win.

The Osasuna supporters were, of course, not the only people that were unhappy to see Greenwood back on a football pitch 20 months after he was charged with attempted rape, assault and coercion. Greenwood denied the accusations.

Abuse charities voiced their disapproval with public condemnation while others chose more covert means, sending anonymous and insulting emails to club staff whose email addresses are in the public domain.

The support for Greenwood among the Getafe fanbase appears strong, however. When the Osasuna fans berated Greenwood upon his entry to the field, the home support whistled at them.

"We've had so many requests for Greenwood's shirt since he joined," a staff member working at the club shop said.

Pedro Bonito, a 17-year-old Getafe fan, arrived at the club's 16,000-seater stadium, El Coliseum Alfonso Pérez, two hours before kick-off just to get a glimpse of Greenwood.

Pérez, who has attended matches since he was nine, removed his phone from his pocket and proudly replayed a video of Greenwood handing him the shirt that the 21-year-old striker wore at his unveiling at the stadium last week. "I met him at his presentation," Bonito said. "He promised me he would give me his shirt and he did. The shirt is at my house. I'm hoping to get it framed if I can persuade him to sign it. Mason is a top player. He is my idol now."

For those who have listened to the shocking voicenote related to the claims against Greenwood, such a comment is hard to stomach. The unconditional support that the Getafe fanbase have for Greenwood probably stems from the fact that they have not been properly informed about the case that was brought against him in January last year, resulting in his 18-month suspension — and ultimately his exit — from United.

There was no mention of the case on Getafe's website or on their English Twitter account, which has gained more than 200,000 followers in the past fortnight, since Greenwood joined the Madrid-based club on a season-long loan from Manchester United.

Rubén Reyes, the sporting director, said in a media interview during the international break that "a judge" had cleared Greenwood on all three charges.

That is not the case. Greenwood's case did not go to trial. The Crown Prosecution Service dropped the charges when key witnesses withdrew and new evidence emerged. Getafe have so far denied requests from English media to speak to Greenwood and Reyes.

Another reason why Getafe fans are so enthralled with their new signing is because, quite simply, he is their best player.

Getafe are a mediocre team who finished 15th in La Liga last season, mainly because they scored only 34 goals in 38 matches. Bordalás, who has a reputation as a hard taskmaster, likes his team to line up in a 4-4-2 formation and they play direct football, which usually starts with the goalkeeper David Soria launching the ball downfield for targetman Borja Mayoral.

Yesterday's game, particularly in the first half, was of such poor quality that one man in the directors' box watched the Singapore Grand Prix for the first 15 minutes of the match.

Both Getafe's first two goals came about because of Osasuna's weak defending from set pieces while the away side needed a penalty after a foul by Soria to make it 2-2 just before the hour.

Greenwood's introduction changed the game. Greenwood slotted into the No10 position behind Mayoral, but he drifted largely to the right wing, where he did most of his damage.

On one occasion, he beat his man and sent a dangerous cross into the box with his right foot. He used his other foot to curl in another teasing delivery moments later.

MENDY RETURNS FOR LORIENT AFTER TWO YEARS OUT OF GAME



Benjamin Mendy played his first game in two years yesterday when he came on as a second-half substitute in Lorient's 2-2 draw with Monaco in France's Ligue 1.

The 29-year-old former Manchester City defender, left, is trying to rebuild his career after being cleared of six counts of rape and one of sexual assault following a six-month trial in January. He was also cleared of two other counts during a retrial in July.

Greenwood's most telling contribution came in the build-up to Getafe's 86th-minute winner. The forward paused for a second and then sprung into the box, beating Juan Cruz for pace, although the left back managed to toe-poke Greenwood's shot behind. From the resulting corner, Nemanja Maksimovi beat Sergio Herrera to give Getafe the win that moved them into the top half of La Liga.

Greenwood was on the end of some rough treatment from the Osasuna side, at one point receiving a hefty kick to his left leg that sent him tumbling to the turf.

His new team-mates immediately went over to Greenwood to see if he was OK and they lifted him to his feet shortly afterwards.

Greenwood had some reservations about joining Getafe. He called his former United youth-team colleagues Arnau Puigmal and Largie Ramazani, who play for Almeria, to see whether they thought La Liga would suit him.

Bordalás has rowed back on his claim, made in one media interview, that Jude Bellingham advised Greenwood to join Getafe after the Real Madrid midfielder's camp disputed his claim.

"I said that Mason Greenwood came to Getafe after speaking to Jude Bellingham, but it wasn't like that. I am sorry for that," Bordalás said at the start of his post-match press conference. "I just wanted to clear that up."

Bordalás was happy with Greenwood's debut and his adaptation period is going better than expected. The player has found a house on the outskirts of Madrid and is settling in well although the Getafe coaches have so far only been able to relay messages to him in English.

"The language at the moment is a handicap but we are helping him a lot," Bordalás said. "He has a teacher in order to accelerate his knowledge of Spanish so he can have better contact with his team-mates, but his behaviour has been good. Today has been a very special day for him. It will give him great satisfaction to feel like a footballer again because to be a footballer is to play and to compete and he hasn't done that for a year and a half."

Ten Hag has spent £373m but are United better for it?

Manchester United 1
Mejbri 73

Brighton 3
Welbeck 20, Gross 53, Pedro 71

IAN WHITTELL

The sight of Brighton & Hove Albion players celebrating after a league victory over Manchester United has become all too familiar recently but the fourth such outcome in the past 16 months felt somehow different.

For one, there was mass disapproval, bordering on open rebellion, from the Old Trafford stands on Saturday, aimed at Erik ten Hag after his decision to replace the promising home debutant, Rasmus Hojlund, with the perennial underachiever Anthony Martial after 64 minutes.

For another, the Sky Sports pundit Gary Neville, usually a barometer of the broad mood of rank and file support, took to social media to lambast the club for their collective "culture of greed, ill discipline, indecision and uncertainty".

Neville, of course, blamed the Glazer family for establishing and maintaining such a tone. However, for all the terrible actions perpetrated by the absent American owners, the greatest, it is now clear, has been their failure to appoint remotely competent executives in the decade since the time of Sir Alex Ferguson and, just as tellingly, the former chief executive David Gill.

After a third defeat in five league games, supporters were genuinely concerned as to whether their club have made any progress in the 13 months of Ten Hag's stewardship: certainly not in the league table, where United have three fewer points than at this stage last season.

At this point a year ago, with Mason Greenwood suspended, off-field distractions were limited to their pouting superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, whom Ten Hag quickly jettisoned.

Now, on the back of the bungled handling of Greenwood's departure, United are without the exiled Jadon Sancho and, with Antony on leave to handle his own off-field issues, Ten Hag's problems have grown.

The contrast with Brighton could not be greater. In the modern Premier League era, selling players is almost as important a skill as recruiting new ones and, in that area of the business, Roberto De Zerbi's club have also eclipsed United.

Not for the first time, De Zerbi's employers have sold his best players this summer for astronomical sums and, apparently, emerged stronger for it. Alexis Mac Allister, Moisés Caicedo and the goalkeeper Robert Sánchez all departed — for approximately £195 million — leaving De Zerbi to field a starting XI at Old Trafford that cost £17 million, or approximately a quarter of Sancho's purchase price.

In his two transfer windows, Ten Hag has spent £387 million on players and, while Sancho and the £80 million bench-filler Harry Maguire predated the Dutchman, in that pair and Antony, United had about £235 million of talent their manager could not, or would not, employ on Saturday.



"I think we lost our two best players in my opinion in the summer," Jason Steele, the Brighton goalkeeper, said. "But whoever comes into the team is coming into a culture that's formed; it's been formed for a while. It's a culture that's the best I've ever experienced in my life.

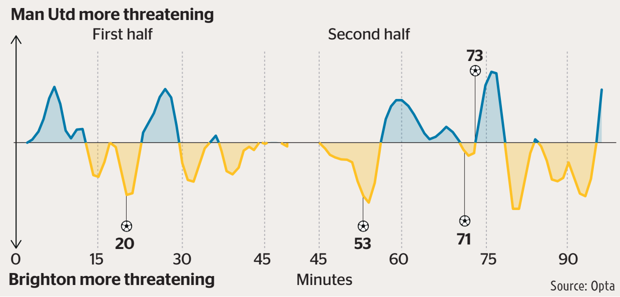
"And I think we — I say 'we' as a group — really handle it cleverly. We bring in James Milner, and we bring in Carlos Baleba and Mo Dahoud. The lads have no option when they join us but to come with us and to join in with the way we behave, the way we train, the way we listen to the boss and take on instruction, and work hard every single day."



There was little evidence of a plan B by Ten Hag, whose midfield, which included Fernandes, inset, could not cope with Brighton's width on the counterattack

CLINICAL BRIGHTON TOOK THEIR CHANCES

Erik ten Hag said United dominated large parts of the game, and this graph of match momentum shows he was not completely wrong, although the expected goals — 0.96 for United against 1.70 for Brighton — shows the visitors deserved to win



Source: Opta

ERIK TEN HAG SIGNINGS FOR MAN UTD

Antony, Ajax	£81m
Rasmus Hojlund, Atalanta	£65m
Casemiro, Real Madrid	£60m
Mason Mount, Chelsea	£55m
Lisandro Martínez, Ajax	£49m
André Onana, Inter Milan	£46m
Tyrell Malacia, Feyenoord	£13m
Altay Bayindir, Fenerbahce	£4m
Christian Eriksen, Brentford	free
Jonny Evans, Leicester	free
Wout Weghorst, Burnley	loan
Martin Dubravka, Newcastle	loan
Marcel Sabitzer, Bayern Munich	loan
Jack Butland, Crystal Palace	loan
Sofyan Amrabat, Fiorentina	loan
Sergio Reguilón, Tottenham	loan
TOTAL	**£373M**

Anecdotally, those qualities appear lacking at United and, now for the first time, Ten Hag's coaching acumen is being placed in the spotlight. For the opening 20 minutes against Brighton, a midfield diamond worked, at least in attack, but as United struggled to cope with their opponents' width on the counterattack, there was little evidence of a plan B, and questionable substitutions.

"This was a team well beaten by opponents that were well drilled and knew what they were doing. Simple as that," was Neville's damning verdict.

Last season offered genuine hope of improvements for United, albeit interspersed with worrying relapses, such as the 7-0 defeat away to Liverpool. But, increasingly, there is the danger that those successes may have been the result, more than anything, of Marcus Rashford's 30-goal season.

At least on Saturday Hojlund showed moments that suggested the £72 million invested in a striker with 18 career league goals to his name may not go the way of Maguire and Sancho. But the short term offers Ten Hag little relief, with the Champions League campaign opening away to Bayern Munich on Wednesday and a meeting with Harry Kane, the centre forward United long coveted but were unable to sign.

"The pressure is always there," Ten Hag said of his position as manager. "It was last year, this year is no different.

"Of course at United you have to win your games. We have to improve and I can't be distracted. We have to improve. Individuals have to step up. Sometimes you are in bad periods and you have to face that."

Unfortunately, for Ten Hag, Manchester United's "bad period" has now lasted for more than a decade and there is no tangible evidence of it ending any time soon.

Wilder sounded out over possible return to Bramall Lane

PAUL ROWAN

The former Sheffield United manager Chris Wilder is under consideration for a return to the club, though sources insisted yesterday that the present manager Paul Heckingbottom's job is safe.

Wilder is understood to have been approached a number of weeks ago after Sheffield United's poor start to the Premier League season. Since then Heckingbottom's side have registered their first point, against Everton, and almost secured a win away to Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, before conceding two goals late in stoppage time. The newly promoted side are 17th.

Wilder is believed to be keen on a return to the club, whom he guided from League One to the Premier League after taking over in 2016. The club finished ninth in their first season back in the top flight but Wilder then left the club in March 2021 with the club bottom of the table, having secured only 14 points in 28 games. It was a fractious departure from Bramall Lane but Wilder, 55, has since mended relations with the club's Saudi owner, Prince Abdullah.

In a recent interview, Prince Abdullah said he believed Wilder — who has been out of work since leaving Watford in the summer — was a better manager than he was two years ago as he had learnt from "adversity" and deserved some of the credit for Sheffield United's return to the Premier League as many of the players were signed during his era. This month the Sheffield United chief executive, Stephen Bettis, was asked in a briefing with local media whether Heckingbottom's job was "completely safe" and if he retains the club's backing whatever happens this season. "Yes," Bettis said, "he's done a great job. Everyone's really happy with what Paul's done."

Heckingbottom, 46, who joined Sheffield United as the under-23s manager in 2020, took over from Wilder, initially on an interim basis. After a brief spell with Slavisa Jokanovic in charge, Heckingbottom was brought back in as the permanent manager in December 2021 and led the club back into the Premier League last season, despite being under a transfer embargo for part of the campaign because of defaulted payments to another club.

Tight financial constraints have remained at the club despite the embargo being lifted. One new signing from Coventry City, Gustavo Hamer, opened the scoring against Tottenham. However, Ange Postecoglou's side then struck twice in stoppage time to leave Sheffield United with one point from five games.

SATURDAY REWIND

Doku's directness is a new

West Ham United 1
Ward-Prowse 36

Manchester City 3
Doku 46, Silva 76, Haaland 86

MOLLY HUDSON

Jérémy Doku is learning. After the final whistle blew in Manchester City's victory over West Ham United, and he caught up with Nayef Aguerd, whom he played alongside at Rennes in France, Doku needed directing over to the usual post-match routine where the City players approach their travelling fans.

Doku's team-mates stood back and allowed the 21-year-old his own moment with the supporters, and the fans responded, perhaps only Erling Haaland and their manager, Pep Guardiola, receiving louder applause than the winger — and for good reason.

Having gone behind to a first-half James Ward-Prowse goal, it was Doku's lightning quick and direct running, combined with a clinical finish, that gave City the equaliser and the impetus to overwhelm West Ham in an impressive second half.

It was not a perfect performance, and those at City know they signed Doku, the promising Belgium winger, with the understanding that he has areas in his game to improve under Guardiola's tutelage. Kevin De Bruyne, an international team-mate, once described Doku as a rough diamond.



Doku's loss of possession in the build-up to Ward-Prowse's goal and then his failure to track Vladimir Coufal — who was also allowed to roam forward by the out-of-position Josko Gvardiol — showed that weakness.

In the 89th minute, with Sergio Gómez on the touchline ready to replace him, Doku again ran down a cul-de-sac, was dispossessed and watched his team-mates concede a foul as they attempted to win the ball back. Before the foul had even been committed, Doku had his hand in the air in way of apology. A few weeks into his City career and he knows the high standards that are expected of him.

With Jack Grealish and De Bruyne among those sidelined with injury, he has received perhaps more minutes than first anticipated, and his adaptation has impressed Guardiola.

"When you buy a young player like him, for many years, we have to be patient," he said. "I will be honest, I didn't expect he would be at this level in his second game at Man City, playing the way he did. That kind of performance from a winger, I don't remember something like that for a long time.

"I was in Barcelona [recovering from back surgery] but I had the feeling he was a little bit shy [in his first game, against Fulham]. It's normal after just two or three days of training and joining the team that won the Treble.

"We spoke [to] him to use his quality as a winger and go when it was one against one or two, or if not the feeling to go past then to pass back to Josko and go again. Use your quality and lose the ball? It's no problem."

As many remarked upon his signature last month, Doku is not a typical Guardiola player. Often in his City tenure the manager has favoured technicians whose first thought is to retain possession and exchange neat passes with team-mates. That is not Doku. It was evident on Saturday afternoon, and surely in the nightmares of Coufal, that when the winger gets the ball, his first instinct is to beat his defender, each and every time.

Many in the London Stadium had not even returned to their seats when in the opening seconds of the second half, Doku ran at Coufal, who, having been beaten several times in the first half, allowed him a little too much space. In the blink of an eye, Coufal was facing his own goal and watching the ball arrow into the net.



Doku, main and inset, who was signed last month from Rennes, is a winger who loves to run at defenders in one-on-one

Guardiola's all-conquering City teams have, on rare occasions, struggled against a low block and been vulnerable to the counterattack. In the unpredictable Doku they have a different kind of talent to threaten opponents and unlock defences.

It is difficult to replicate success and maintain it across several seasons. City quickly identified that signing plenty of quality would not necessarily help to do so, particularly if they did not retain experienced heads such as the effervescent Kyle Walker, who Guardiola joked had "genetics that our mum and dad didn't

Arsenal will not want to face us, warns Son

Tottenham 2
Richarlison 90+8, Kulusevski 90+10

Sheffield United 1
Hamer 73

PAUL ROWAN

There have been days in recent seasons when the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium has been less than a third full at full-time — even against big sides such as Manchester United. But Saturday's scenes suggested that the club have rediscovered their mojo, or, rather, Ange Postecoglou has.

The final whistle brought joyous pandemonium and images of overweight middle-aged men dancing in the aisles, while even the chairman, Daniel Levy, rose from his seat with a smile across his face. That Tottenham Hotspur's players and supporters are united is no coincidence: Postecoglou is unbeaten in 50 home games across three clubs: Yokohama Marinos, Celtic and Tottenham.

"The way we play, it's not just that I believe it's what gets you success, it also requires a fair bit of bravery and courage, a real relentlessness," the Tottenham head coach said. "That has to marry with the image of the football club."

That relentlessness meant Tottenham kept going until the end. Goals in the 98th and 100th minutes made this the latest comeback in Premier League history, after Gustavo Hamer had fired Sheffield United ahead in the second half.

The Tottenham captain, Son Heung-min, had a relatively quiet game and was substituted but he was hopping about on the pitch after the final whistle, pointing out Richarlison and pushing the striker towards the delirious supporters. Richarlison, having admitted last week that he needed psychological help to cope with what has been a difficult period, came off the bench, struck the equaliser with an excellent header — only his second league goal in 32 appearances — and then teed up Dejan Kulusevski for the winner.

"I was probably more happy than him," Son said. "We need him as a team. He has really good quality but the confidence is massively different. I just wanted to give him the big hug he deserved.

"Richy is a really strong guy, a good character and can always bounce back strong. But when you have a tough time you need good people around you. I always try to be a friend of him and if he needs anything then I can help him from my experience."

After the dour years of José Mourinho, Nuno Espírito Santo

STEPHEN POND/GETTY IMAGES



From left: Bissouma, Micky van de Ven and Sarr celebrate Kulusevski's late winner

weapon for Pep

PAUL MARRIOTT/SHUTTERSTOCK

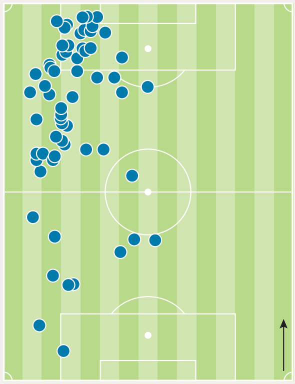


situations, which is in contrast to Guardiola's desire for City to retain possession

DOKU OVERCOMES SHYNESS

Guardiola said Doku had been shy on his City debut against Fulham earlier this month. These stats show the improvement at West Ham, and the touch map shows all his touches at the London Stadium

Touches v West Ham



	v West Ham	v Fulham
Minutes played	89	76
Dribbles attempted	9	3
Dribbles completed	3	2
Touches	64	43
Touches in opposite box	14	0

give to us". The 33-year-old continues to go from strength to strength.

Doku and Gvardiol were the only two members of Guardiola's starting XI against West Ham who were new summer signings. The pair showed glimpses of a decent combination down the left flank. The type of challenge they pose is very different to that of Grealish and Nathan Aké, who was on the bench. Doku provides a more direct threat, and were it not for the uncharacteristic wastefulness of Haaland in front of goal after a pinpoint cross from Doku just before half-time, he would have had even more reward on his second Premier League appearance.

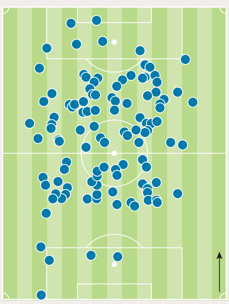
On the basis of this performance, Doku will quickly become accustomed to the adoration of his new fans.

as belief returns to Spurs

BORN-AGAIN BISSOUMA

The Tottenham midfielder, rejuvenated under Postecoglou, had more touches (110) than any other player in Saturday's game, and was an influence all over the field

Touches v Sheffield Utd



and Antonio Conte, the quick transformation is quite remarkable. The character and self-belief instilled by the head coach was clearly needed. It looked at one point as if Tottenham had run out of ideas, even though they ended the match with 28 shots on goal, ten of them on target.

While Richarlison produced two rare pieces of quality in a Tottenham shirt, it was Yves Bissouma who drove the home team on in a box-to-box role. Bissouma is ideal for the sort of pressing game that Postecoglou has introduced. He was also a creative force when United elected to sit in and a great stopper when Paul Heckingbottom's side occasionally hit Tottenham on the break. Pedro Porro is another player thriving under Postecoglou after having to deal with Conte's mind games.

With Tottenham's most creative player, James Maddison, prepared to do his share of the dirty work and Pape Matar Sarr and Destiny Udogie coming good after returns from loan spells, things have not looked so rosy at the club since the Mauricio Pochettino days. Should Richarlison's sudden revival be maintained, hasty revision will be required by the many who reckoned that Spurs were destined for a mid-table finish this season.

Tottenham have a week to prepare for the north London derby at the Emirates on Sunday, when we will learn a lot more about the players and the manager in a hostile environment.

"[Arsenal] won't want to face us at this time," Son said. "Everyone is running for each other, everyone is fighting for each other. If someone comes off you give a hand off and everyone is happy to do that. That makes us really strong as a team."

Durán ahead of schedule as Emery's patience pays off

Aston Villa	**3**
Durán 87, Luiz 90+8 (pen), Bailey 90+11	
Crystal Palace	**1**
Édouard 47	

CHARLOTTE DUNCKER

Unai Emery hopes he has unlocked a new strike partnership at Aston Villa thanks to the progression of Jhon Durán. The teenager came on in the 71st minute of their comeback against Crystal Palace and had an instant impact with a wonderful volley three minutes from time, inspiring the win.

He has scored in all three of Villa's home games this season and is becoming a vital option for Emery.

"Scoring like he did, is coming quickly to him," the Villa head coach said. "But the most important thing is his quality, his capacity, his skill, his big potential. It's his structure as a player and then trying to organise him in our structure, helping him."

It has been a development process since his arrival from Chicago Fire in a deal worth £15 million in January. After the departure of Danny Ings, many thought that Durán was being brought in as a replacement, but Emery had other ideas. The Spaniard did not want to put pressure on the Colombian and there was an acceptance that he was not ready to start.



Durán's form could soon earn him a starting role

Villa scouts and Emery knew the potential of the 19-year-old but also knew he needed guidance. Helping Durán adapt has been as much about life off the pitch as it has been about work at the training ground.

"He needs help, sometimes to push him and be demanding, sometimes to try to support everything he is doing, good and bad," Emery said.

After goals against Everton, Hibernian and Palace the clamour will be to get him into the starting XI, but Emery has a plan and it involves being patient. Where last season Durán struggled to make an impact off the bench, failing to score in 12 games, he has already shown he is maturing into a player capable of changing games.

His volley against Palace exuded confidence and skill and was precisely the reason why Emery blocked any offers for the teenager to head out on loan this season; the head coach knew he was going to be important. The Europa Conference League could give him more opportunities, starting with Thursday's trip to Legia Warsaw. Emery is open to tweaking his system to two up front, with Durán alongside Ollie Watkins.

"They could complement each other," Emery said. The pressure is still very much on Watkins to lead the line for Villa, but in Durán, Emery has an option that has become available sooner than some expected.

Luton up for the fight but size of task looks daunting

Fulham	**1**
Vinícius 65	
Luton Town	**0**

TOM KERSHAW

The beauty was always in the struggle for Luton Town. Here were a historic club that rose from the ashes after financial problems consigned them to the National League 14 years ago; a local institution that remain wedded to their charmingly decrepit stadium; a team that scrapped back up through the divisions in what seemed a Sisyphean task until the boulder actually rolled over the precipice and Luton were officially a Premier League club at last.

It was a fairytale forged in grit, with the air of romance untainted by defeat against Brighton & Hove Albion on the opening weekend. Paeans were dedicated to the club's first match at Kenilworth Road this season, where West Ham United's victory failed to puncture the celebratory mood, but even Luton's ardent away support had fallen a little flat at the end of their 1-0 defeat by Fulham on Saturday.

This was a more reasonable measure of hope, with Fulham blunt and unimaginative in the face of Luton's 5-3-2, but the harsh reality was difficult to avoid. Luton may have spurned three fine chances on the counterattack, but Rob Edwards's side had only 22 per cent possession and completed only 68 per cent of their passes. They were disciplined and well organised, with the new signings Jacob Brown, Issa Kaboré and Albert Sambi Lokonga all impressing, and were ultimately only undone by an individual error when Thomas Kaminski palmed Willian's cross into Carlos Vinícius's path.

There is no great shame in that whatsoever. The previous time Fulham and Luton met, in the Sky Bet Championship in May last year, Marco Silva's side won 7-0 and have spent more than £100 million on players since.

Edwards balked at one pundit's "disrespectful" suggestion last week that Luton could be condemned before Christmas and are hard to take seriously as a Premier League outfit. The manager has done an excellent job since taking charge in November, and a cautious tactical approach is grounded in reason. "I've seen progression again from a couple of weeks ago," Edwards noted, but Fulham were far from their best too and will struggle to replicate their tenth-place finish last season.

Luton's coveted first point will surely arrive before long, but Edwards must already recognise the disparities are simply too great to be bridged by nous or stubbornness.

Newcastle 'group of death' now looking decidedly less scary

IAN HAWKEY



European football

Blessings for Newcastle United, on the eve of their return to Europe's elite. Having imagined the Champions League group they were cast into put them firmly at the tradesman's entrance of a big-stadium, privilege-wielding, entitled trio of opponents, they can study the form and feel assured. Paris Saint-Germain, top seeds in group F, lost at home at the weekend, a persistent PSG habit. AC Milan, who host Newcastle tomorrow, spent Saturday putting together a comprehensive dossier on why they are stuck being the second-best team in their city.

The fifth Milan derby of this calendar year went the same way as the previous four and with their 5-1 victory, Inter made some local history. Never before had they strung together as many successive wins over their neighbours. By the end of a wet San Siro evening, it had turned into a humiliating follow-up to May's 3-0 aggregate win in the European Cup semi-final. Henrikh Mkhitaryan, the evergreen 34-year-old, scored twice and set up the fifth. Marko Arnautovic, also 34, came off the Inter bench and made a case for finally getting on the pitch in a Champions League game, fully 13 years after he was a non-playing member of the last Inter squad to have won the competition.

This time around, Inter intend to be as awkward as they were as last season's surprise finalists, loyal to most of the personnel and to the methods — organised at the back, sharp on the break — that carried them to Istanbul and left them narrow losers to a better appointed, more accomplished Manchester City. Gone from that Inter side are Edin Dzeko and Romelu Lukaku, and, no less important to the way they constructed their catapult counterattacks, the goalkeeper André Onana; in, principally as impact substitutes, are a cohort of veterans, returnees such as Alexis Sánchez and Arnautovic and Serie A stalwart Juan Cuadrado. And, in the No 9 jersey, the derby's dazzler, Marcus Thuram, 26 and signed on a free transfer from Borussia Mönchengladbach.

If you were, say, Newcastle's Dan Burn, anticipating a European debut at San Siro and making a review of the Milan derby part of your final homework, one pleasing aspect would be that the assignment does not involve marking Thuram. Or collapsing to the turf in the face of the Frenchman's skill and drive, as Milan's Malik Thiaw did in the lead-up to Saturday's opening goal. Or indeed looking on in disbelief at the wonderful, shades-of-Thierry-Henry curling strike with which Thuram doubled Inter's lead. Although Milan's Rafael Leão would ignite brief hope of a Rossoneri comeback, Leão was part of much the more subdued frontline on an evening when high expectations about Milan's summer refit were thoroughly doused.

Neither Christian Pulisic, excellent in his previous three games, nor Ruben Loftus-Cheek, made a significant impression. Of the quartet of former Chelsea players — Olivier Giroud the other — on Milan's roster, the only one to emerge with reputation intact was Fikayo Tomori, and that was suspended. The Milan head coach, Stefano Pioli, will warmly welcome the England player's return tomorrow.

Ever sensitive to suggestions that Milan, a youngish side when you exclude Giroud, 36, tend to episodes of naivety against more worldly opponents, Pioli maintained "the team will have no problems psychologically".



Giroud, left, and Pulisic reflect on a chastening night

BRITISH CLUBS IN EUROPE THIS WEEK

Kick-off 8pm unless stated

Tomorrow

Champions League

Group E
Feyenoord v Celtic

Group F
AC Milan v Newcastle United (5.45)

Group G
Manchester City v Red Star Belgrade

Wednesday

Champions League

Group A
Bayern Munich v Manchester United

Group B
Arsenal v PSV Eindhoven

Thursday

Europa League

Group A
West Ham United v Backa Topola

Group B
Brighton & Hove Albion v AEK Athens

Group C
Rangers v Real Betis

Group E
LASK Linz v Liverpool (5.45)

Europa Conference League

Group E
Legia Warsaw v Aston Villa (5.45)

Group G
Eintracht Frankfurt v Aberdeen (5.45)

In Champions League terms, that is true of Milan the institution, seven times winners of the European Cup and in the semi-finals five months ago. All that may carry a helpful aura against a Newcastle side who last experienced the Champions League group stage 21 years ago. But these are clubs riding different tides in the sport. Most obvious, they occupy distinct tiers of the European food chain.

While Serie A is cautiously celebrating signs of a renaissance — its clubs won silver medals in every Uefa competition last season — it looks in envy at the power of the Premier League, which provided the winners of the Champions League and the Europa Conference League, and at the wealth of England's top division. Newcastle were able to lure Milan's most valuable midfielder, Sandro Tonali, in the summer; Milan spread the €70 million (about £60 million) yield from that sale around Pulisic, Loftus-Cheek and Pulisic's US international team-mate Yunus Musah; all footballers with a slightly unfulfilled Premier League past.

Milan's owner, RedBird Capital, is based in America; Newcastle's majority stakeholders are Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, and because of that, Milan-Newcastle, opening fixture of this, the last Champions League to feature an orthodox group stage — from 2024, the expanded "Swiss model" league format takes over — resonates ominously with Uefa. Europe's governing body has rarely felt the Champions League's pre-eminent status in club football so threatened as now, and the conspicuous challenges are to its west and east.

In 20 months' time, the US will host the 2025 Fifa Club World Cup, the expanded 32-club summer tournament whose aim is to become the true summit of club football in a way the existing, annual Club World Cup, a parenthesis in the European calendar, has never quite managed. This edition of the Uefa Champions League serves as a qualifier for some of the last remaining European slots for the new expanded, four-yearly Fifa extravaganza.

Meanwhile, the Asian Champions League group stage begins today. It does so as the new playground of the European Footballer of the Year, Karim Benzema and the sport's costliest player, Neymar, among the several former European Cup winners now employed by Saudi Arabian clubs.

And for the first time in two decades, a Uefa Champions League will raise its curtain on a stage where neither Cristiano Ronaldo nor Lionel Messi appear. For Ronaldo, busy with Al-Nassr, of Riyadh, and Inter Miami's Messi, elevating the popularity and profile of the game in the US, it can look like the beginning of a new, more global era.



Loftus-Cheek tries to find a way past Mkhitaryan in a largely innocous display

From south coast to

Newcastle Wilson 64 (pen)	**1**
Brentford	**0**

MARTIN HARDY

Eddie Howe had longer hair, with a quiff, and Callum Wilson had less stubble, and a bizarre black and white T-shirt. The pair were shaking hands and holding a Bournemouth strip at Dean Court.

It was 2014 and Wilson had just moved from Coventry City to the south coast for £3 million. At the age of 22, there had been two spells in non-League, 22 goals in his first full season in League One and one appearance at Championship level, the division Howe had led Bournemouth into in his second spell in charge of the club.

"We feel we can take his game to another level," Howe had said. "He had a very good season last year. I think he is at the perfect age to kick on."

Tomorrow night, nine years on, Howe and Wilson will walk out together in the Champions League at the San Siro against AC Milan. The kick happened. Wilson is 31 now and established as the first-choice back-up to Harry Kane for England. Last week he signed a one-year contract extension to keep him at St James' Park until at least 2025.

Howe, having led Newcastle to a fourth-place finish in the Premier League last season, is recognised as one of England's best coaches. The relationship between head coach and player is one of Howe's strengths.

"It's crazy it's nearly a decade since I signed him," Howe said. "I'm trying to think how he has changed as a person. There are no real obvious changes but saying that, his life has changed totally, which I think is a huge compliment to him really.

"He's gone from when I first signed him to a Championship player to now an international, a Premier League player and a Champions League player, but his character is still the same.

"He laughs, he jokes, he's positive, he's kind, he's a really good team-mate. He's a parent and he's a really good father to his kids and he's a husband, so a lot has changed in his life but I think the general character is exactly the same.

"When I see him come on for England against Scotland I'm just

LUCA ROSSINI/NURPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK



from the former Chelsea man for AC Milan, while Mkhitaryan scored twice for last season's Champions League finalists

San Siro for Wilson and Howe



Howe signed Wilson in 2014 when he was Bournemouth manager. Nine years on the pair will walk out together at the San Siro as Newcastle get this season's Champions League group stage under way against Milan

really pleased for him, as I am with any player I've had a relationship with and coached and tried to help on their way. When they do well, there's just a really nice feeling of warmth towards them.

"He's had a very, very difficult journey to get where he is now. It has not all been plain sailing. Just the character he's got, the positivity has helped him become an elite player.

"I hope and I know there is more there for him. He is now on the very biggest stage." As is Howe himself. There is a curiosity that the opening group F match will be the first time he has actually been at a Champions League game.

He will have to learn fast. "Believe it or not, I've not thought about it too much yet as I've gone straight from the transfer window into the start of the season," he said of leading a team out in the competition for the first time. "You put it at the back of your mind, but now it is here, now it is the next game, I will be immensely proud to lead the team out. I'm excited for the players, I'm excited for the supporters. It's going to be a great moment for us all."

That Newcastle head to Milan with lifted spirits was down to Wilson's third goal of the season in his first start of the campaign against Brentford, a controversial 64th-minute penalty, smashed home at the Gallowgate End of St James' Park after a coming together of the Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken and Anthony Gordon in the penalty area.

Thomas Frank centred his frustration on a rule change in the laws of the game this season that has worked against his side twice now.

"I'm pretty sure Howard Webb will come to us and say, 'Sorry, we made a mistake,' the Brentford head coach said.

"They gave us guidance that when the player goes round them [the goalkeeper] and they can't get the ball and the goalkeeper pulls out, they will not give a penalty. They gave a penalty in the Arsenal-City game and it was wrong so they changed the rule. Now apparently it is not the rule [against Newcastle] so it is extra frustrating."

'I wanted to stay on bench to avoid it all going wrong'

Former Everton forward Michael Branch has set up a running club to help promote mental health, reports **Paul Joyce**

Michael Branch explains that there are only two rules. No headphones is the first, he says, and the second is to run with someone you do not already know.

And with that a group of about 20 women and men of all ages begin a gentle 5km jog, starting at the Britannia pub and heading along Otterspool Promenade, which runs beside the banks of the River Mersey.

Every Sunday at 8am for the past four weeks, Branch, the former Everton forward, has been here after launching an initiative called Social Striders, which focuses on exercise and interaction.

"The only thing you have to give up is your Sunday lie-in," he says. "In return, it sets you up for the day. It's a little win by 9am."

The idea came from a recognition that exercise has helped him to feel better about his own mental health and he believes that others can benefit too. Pat Van Den Hauwe, the former Everton title-winning defender and Wales international, has taken part, which has led to double takes from passers-by who remember the tough-as-teak left back with the foreboding nickname "Psycho".

Branch was the wunderkind who represented England Under-21, making his debut for Everton aged 17 against Manchester United in 1996 before his fortunes slipped into free fall. A nomadic spell ensued as he joined Wolverhampton Wanderers, Bradford City and Chester City, and he also had several loan moves.

In an interview with The Times three years ago, he spoke of the downward spiral that led to him serving 3½ years in prison for supplying drugs, although he has refused to allow the "biggest mistake of his life" to define him. He looks back now at his own struggles, how the pressure engulfed him, and wonders what might have been if he'd had a better understanding of why he felt a problem was around the corner.

"I didn't really know what was going on in my head when I was young," he says. "Even though I was good as a youngster, I was always thinking, 'This bubble is going to burst soon.'

"If I had a couple of good games, I would think, 'I am due a bad one.' There was this hole in me that I couldn't fill. I would be petrified of making a mistake. I would think, 'Please sub me now because I've played well.' Or if I was a substitute, sometimes I would think, 'Don't put me on.' That way nothing could go wrong.

"I don't know when it stopped being fun. At Lilleshall [the FA's former centre of excellence], I was ahead of everyone and I was away from the city. When I came back to the city the pressure was hard."

Exercise is Branch's "toolkit". Most mornings he will be out for a run by 6am and he likes to head down to Everton's new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock to see the progress of the 52,000-capacity ground.

"I like that time of the morning, before the world has woken up," he says. "I didn't know enough about mental health when I was young. Mental health is like physical health. You can have good and bad, and I can see the signs now when it isn't great for me. The first thing that normally goes is wanting to exercise. My head doesn't want me exercising or socialising. It wants me on my own so it can talk negatively to me. I have to work against it."

So he has joined a running club and stepped back on a football pitch again, something he thought was all in his past. "I didn't think I would ever play football again but now I am enjoying it," he says.

"I play with an old school friend, Stewart, who comes to the Sunday run too. There is a talk I do about my life to young kids, a workshop about decision-making and coming back from setbacks.

"One of the slides I show is of a Liverpool cup game when Stewart and I were at Sudley Junior School together. We were playing at Anfield and we won. That was when we were aged ten and now we are playing again coming up to 45.

"That first day I was thinking, 'How am I going to get out of this?' I couldn't be bothered seeing people because I was worried they would be thinking, 'What's he doing here?'

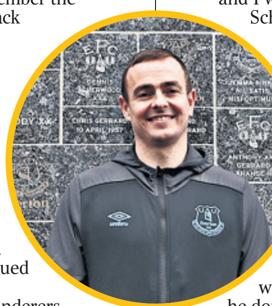
"I was dreading it but my girlfriend, Charlotte, said, 'Go.' I loved it and couldn't wait to go to the next one. I try to keep it simple. I've not got it to show off any more. My brain sort of knows what to do but my legs don't."

Branch works for Everton in the Community and speaks passionately about helping to look after the club's former players, along with mentoring youngsters and, importantly, their parents on the pitfalls of football.

He hopes the Sunday run will evolve but, for now, likes that the group is not huge. "The night before the first run, I was thinking no one would turn up," he says. "But it went well and Charlotte explained, 'Twenty people have come to something you have organised, that is amazing.'

"My daughter Ellise came for the first time the other week and she texted me later on, 'Dad I'm so proud of you.' That got me. That was nice.

"Even if only one person comes, it still would have been worth it. It only takes two people to talk."



Branch launched the initiative after struggling with his own mental health

James and Kavanagh leave the Den fuming

Millwall	Leeds United
0	3
	Piroe 15, 77, Rutter 81

RATINGS
Millwall (3-4-1-2): B Bialkowski 6 — R Leonard 7, J Cooper 7, M Wallace 7 — B Norton-Cuffy 6, A Campbell 6 (R Esse 64min, 5), B Mitchell 6 (G Saville 84), R Longman 7 (A Emakhu 73) — C De Norre 6 (Z Flemming 64, 5) — T Bradshaw 6, K Nisbet 5 (D Watmore 64, 4).
Leeds United (4-2-3-1): I Meslier 6 — L Ayling 7, J Rodon 7, P Struijk 7, S Byram 7 — E Ampadu 6, A Gray 7 (I Gruev 89) — C Summerville 6 (D James 69, 7), J Piroe 7 (G Kamara 83), W Gnonto 7 (J Anthony 69, 4) — G Rutter 7 (J Gelhardt 89).
Referee C Kavanagh. **Attendance** 17,909.

JACQUES FEENEY/OFFSIDE



Rutter confirms victory for Leeds with the visitors' third goal nine minutes from time in south London, having already assisted Piroe's controversial first-half opener

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP
JON WEST

Daniel James came off the bench to set up the two goals that turned a narrow lead into an emphatic victory. In so doing he also took the heat off the referee, Chris Kavanagh.

James inadvertently helped Joel Piroe, Leeds United's £12 million August buy from Swansea City, add to his controversial first-half opener. Four minutes later the winger set up Georginio Rutter for a third that lifted Daniel Farke's side up to tenth in the Sky Bet Championship.

Kavanagh, a Premier League official since 2017, was perhaps relieved that Piroe's first did not turn out to be the game's only goal. The referee has yet to take charge in the top flight this term, having only just passed fitness tests, although he was the VAR for Brighton & Hove Albion's win away to Manchester United on Saturday, which featured a home goal chalked off by microscopic margins.

Millwall fans launched a barrage of abuse his way at half-time after Piroe had been allowed to celebrate a 15th-minute opener that Farke, the Leeds manager, described as so beautiful "you could put it in a book and sell it".

It was indeed a breathtaking passing move in which Rutter burst forward, exchanged passes with Wilfried Gnonto and located Piroe on the left of the box for an assured finish across the goalkeeper Bartosz Bialkowski.

Millwall fans were furious, however, that Piroe's challenge on Kevin Nisbet in the build-up, when the ball was still deep in Leeds territory, remained unpunished. That had taken place seconds after penalty appeals for handball by Luke Ayling, who was sold short by a dreadful pass from his goalkeeper, Illan Meslier, had been ignored.

That the Millwall manager, Gary Rowett, did not replicate the fans' fury afterwards was a strong indication that the official, who had a good view, had got it right, however. "It might well be the right decision but it felt a big moment and a little bit unjust," Rowett said.

Not that Kavanagh got everything right. Gnonto was not booked early in the second half for an obvious tug on Ryan Leonard's shirt, again to loud local disapproval. Then the official refused to get involved in a shoving match between Leonard and Ethan Ampadu after a collision with Meslier. Not long after, Gnonto was taken out off the ball by Leonard, with no punishment forthcoming.

The game was crying out for someone else to be the centre of attention and James became exactly that in comical fashion in the 77th minute. He used his pace to burst forward and slip in Rutter on the right of the box, but it was James who slipped when the ball was squared to him, and the contact he made would have sent the ball wide of Bialkowski's post. Piroe was on hand for a tap-in.

Rutter then made sure of victory thanks to James's pace again and a kind deflection. Millwall lost possession on the edge of the Leeds box, James sprinted from his own half to tee up the Frenchman via a defender's heel and Rutter smashed the ball high beyond the goalkeeper to secure the points for the visitors.

"I'm proud of my guys," Farke said. "Here you have to show steel and resilience — and wait for the moments to let your quality shine. That's what we did."

Klopp still has power to transform

Wolves Hwang Hee-chan 7	**1**
Liverpool Gakpo 55, Robertson 85, Bueno 90+1 (og)	**3**

GREGOR ROBERTSON

Just how far can Jürgen Klopp's "LFC rebooted" go this season? Another rousing comeback, and a fourth win from their opening five Premier League games, added to the growing weight of opinion that it is Liverpool who look best-placed to push Manchester City closest for the title.

There is certainly grounds for optimism in the way nine of Liverpool's 13 points this season have been earned after falling a goal behind; in the way the dynamic Dominik Szoboszlai has settled into life on Merseyside; in the rich array of attacking options Klopp has at his disposal; and the way the Liverpool manager's substitutions have affected games, as was again the case in Saturday's 3-1 win against Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Klopp brings up his eight-year anniversary as the manager at Anfield next month but, as he pointed out on the eve of the trip to Molineux, the accelerated evolution of Liverpool's squad in the summer means it feels as if it is "year one" for the German and this group of players.

In truth, it has seemed that way during spells of each of Liverpool's games — perhaps with the exception of the 3-0 win against Aston Villa. Klopp admitted that his side's first-half display at Wolves looked as if his players had just met for the first time in the car park.

Despite the win extending Liverpool's unbeaten streak to 16 league games, Klopp knows this Liverpool team are very much a work in progress. Title talk perhaps feels a little premature for a side that offer so little defensive protection in midfield and feel rather light in numbers at the back.

Last season's 3-0 defeat away to Molineux was one of the lowest points of a season to forget. Many have been quick to point to a steelier side to Liverpool this season, after comebacks against Bournemouth and Newcastle United, when Darwin Núñez was introduced and scored two late goals to win it for Liverpool.

Yet, in truth, the transformative impact of Klopp's substitutes — and some good fortune — has been the primary driver of those positive results.

On Saturday it was the introduction of Luis Díaz, Núñez and Harvey Elliott that tipped the game in Liverpool's favour. Szoboszlai's performance as the deep-lying midfielder in the second half — Klopp switched to a 4-4-2 formation at half-time, removing Alexis Mac Allister and pushing the Hungary midfielder deeper — provided further evidence of his value, versatility and drive. Question marks undoubtedly remain, however, about the balance in the middle of the pitch.

Liverpool can look forward to the return of the injured midfield duo Thiago Alcântara and Stefan Bajcetic, while the arrival of Ryan Gravenberch from Bayern Munich and Wataru Endo from Stuttgart mean Klopp is not short of options in the centre of the pitch.

Yet even in the absence of Trent Alexander-Arnold, who was sidelined with a hamstring injury, Klopp chose to ask his replacement, Joe Gomez, to take up similar positions in midfield in possession. Gomez looked uncomfortable in that role, even more so given that the 26-year-old was tasked with defending against the excellent left winger Pedro Neto, who skipped past Gomez and Joël Matip with ease to lay on Hwang Hee-chan's opener.



For the second away game running Klopp's subs were effective

9
Points won already this season by Liverpool from losing positions, two more than the next best team (Tottenham)

A composed full Premier League debut for the academy graduate Jarell Quansah, 20, was a bright spark during a woeful first half for Liverpool during which they lacked energy, imagination and bite. Even the return of Alexander-Arnold and the suspended Virgil van Dijk, however, does not suggest a string of clean sheets is on the way.

"It's a new start. We've got a lot of new players, kind of a new way of playing," Andrew Robertson, who gave Liverpool the lead in the 85th minute, on his 200th Premier League appearance, said.

"We've got good, exciting young players. Sometimes you could probably see that in the first half, where it was time to just put the foot on the ball, we were still maybe trying to force it.

"But second half, we played with no fear and we made really good substitutions. If we keep everyone fit, we believe that we've got a squad that can compete."

Wolves have conceded ten of their 11 goals in the second half of games.

Gary O'Neil's side were superb in the first half: compact, disciplined, setting intelligent traps in midfield from a low defensive block.

As Liverpool laboured to create any decent opportunities, Wolves' pressing triggers — often through the excellent João Gomes — allowed Neto space on the counterattack.

"He's really got his head down this season, he's really working hard, you can see a big impact from him," Max Kilman, the Wolves captain, said of Neto, who returned from a ten-month knee injury in February. "He's vital for us, we just have to keep giving him the ball."

Just before the break, Neto nutmegged Gomez and clipped a delightful ball towards Matheus Cunha but the Brazilian missed a glorious chance for 2-0.

"If we were 2-0 up then it would've been a different game," Kilman said.

"It was good to see us creating those chances and getting into good areas, which has been a problem for us over the past couple of seasons.

"But we need to improve in terms of finishing games off and also being more ruthless, defensively. We're still learning from the new manager, things will click soon, we just need to stay together."

Bullied boy who lived the dream of making home-town club big again

Sir Bob Murray, former Sunderland chairman, speaks to **Henry Winter** about his legacy, and how greed changed the game

Sir Bob Murray sits in the Beacon of Light, the sanctuary he founded next to the Stadium of Light he built, and agonises about the game he loves. He worries about the greed in football, the sportswashing, improper owners and the need to protect the pyramid, and he worries about society too.

Murray had anxiety issues, which he overcame through hard work, acquiring his fortune through kitchens and property, and he has deep concerns about the world around him.

Now 77, spritely and reflective, Murray is celebrating the Beacon of Light's fifth anniversary on Thursday, and recalls how recently he visited the school that tends to 80 pupils who are deemed too troubled or troublesome for mainstream education. "There were four kids, 16 years old, they'd been written off, their lives were finished," he says. "I cried. They were only 16. Absolute broke my heart. Everything was against them. People here are the outcasts of society."

The Beacon is the HQ and heartbeat of the Foundation of Light, Sunderland's official charity. "I consider this place a hospital," Murray says. "It's where you get better. We teach them how to deal with life, deal with pressures. It's the power of the brand, Sunderland. It's phenomenal.

"We get people who come in here to get warm. They can't afford to put their central heating on. It's 2023. We have the most efficient car plant on our doorstep in Europe here [Nissan] and there are people who can't keep warm and can't keep fed. Unbelievable. This place is sadly much needed, increasingly so."

Some owners leave clubs, but with someone such as Murray, the club never leaves them. Some people leave their home area, but never forget their roots. "I'm really proud of where I come from," he says. "I got lucky. It's great being a northeast lad. I'm positive, determined and honest. And I'm tenacious."

He needed to be, growing up in Consett. "The school was horrendous," he says. "I was bullied. But that was life, that was Consett. If you were weak, you went under." Sunderland provided an escape. "I remember when I received my first Sunderland shirt! I was eight. I put it on and felt ten foot tall. I thought I looked a player.

"Going to Roker Park for the first time was memorable. Consett has 40,000 people, 8,000 worked in the steelworks, so going to a ground with 50,000 made an amazing impression.

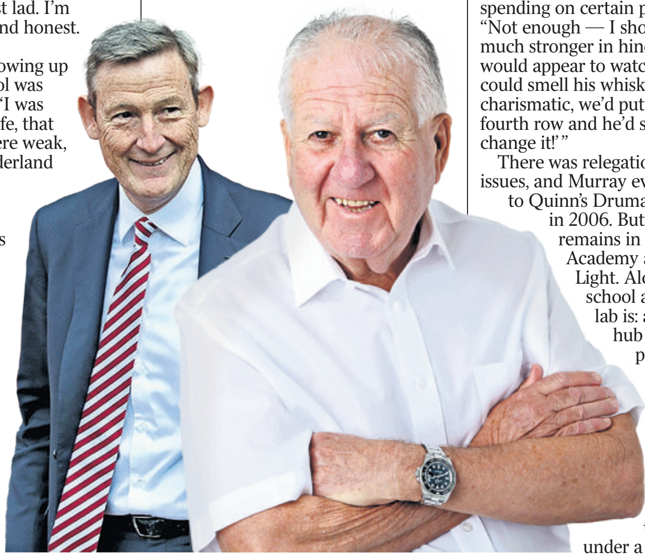
"Len Shackleton was my dad's favourite player. For me, Brian Clough, as a goalscorer, was the one in excitement terms. Charlie Hurley was the king, he came here from Millwall [in 1957] — he could have gone to Manchester United but he came to us! He's an eloquent, beautiful man, a great centre half. I still get a Christmas card from him and [his wife] Joan. He stayed at Sunderland when he could have gone to Manchester United. Unbelievable." Hurley eventually left for Bolton Wanderers on a free but that he stayed so long meant so much.

That connection to Sunderland is why Murray regularly returns to the northeast from his Jersey retreat and why he was back again this week. Sunderland is in his blood. It flows through the prose of his punchy new autobiography, *I'd Do It All Again*, with all proceeds going to the Foundation of Light.



ALAMY

The strike partnership of Phillips, left, and Quinn brought joy to Sunderland under Murray, below right, who had been ostracised for moving the club out of Roker Park. The Wearsiders then drifted under the ownership of Short, below left



He became the club's chairman in 1986, and saw some wonderful football. "Just the chemistry of Marco's [Gabbiadini's] pace and Eric [Gates] putting him through." With another double act, Sunderland twice finished seventh in the Premiership, and Kevin Phillips won the European Golden Shoe. "Kevin was very special," Murray reflects, his eyes lighting up again. "Him and Niall Quinn, unbelievable, I had the Golden Boot of Europe playing for Sunderland in a team that was seventh. I was on fantasy island!"

He had Peter Reid as manager. "Working class, gritty, a fighter, determined," Murray recalls. He had some arguments with Reid over spending on certain players late on. "Not enough — I should have been much stronger in hindsight." Clough would appear to watch Reid's team. "I could smell his whisky. He'd come in, charismatic, we'd put him in the fourth row and he'd shout, 'Reidy, change it!'"

There was relegation, financial issues, and Murray eventually sold out to Quinn's Drumaville Consortium in 2006. But his legacy remains in the Stadium, Academy and Beacon of Light. Along with the school and its science lab is: an employment hub teaching work-place skills; a specialist NHS mental health centre; acres of sports facilities and a pitch on the roof where the Sunderland Ladies scholars trained last week under a mural of Steph Houghton, the Manchester City and England defender, who began her career at the club.

"It cost £20 million to build," Murray says. "We've got the largest indoor hall between Leeds and Edinburgh. Keir Starmer [the Labour leader] likes it. I'm OK about Starmer, although he's not charismatic enough for me. The PM [Rishi Sunak] hasn't been yet."

One particular former PM, Margaret Thatcher, whom he met when she visited his successful Spring Ram kitchen manufacturing company in Yorkshire, stirs only contempt in Murray. "I didn't like her. She was evil. Worse than that. I was here when she closed the shipyard, you see. And my home town, Consett, that went." The steelworks were shut down in 1980. "Thatcher closed it overnight."

All the while Murray built his business and eventually the foundation. Mental and physical health are particularly focused on at the Beacon. Downstairs from where Murray talks are staff and members of the armed forces, working with those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. "Around 15 to 20 per cent of forces come from the northeast. Recruitment is so good here because you traditionally are expected to go in the forces. When I was at Roker Park, they used to let the forces go in the car park for recruiting on match days. I used to go wild! I kicked them off because they were taking my supporters away."

Murray became briefly estranged from many Sunderland fans when he moved the club from Roker Park to the Stadium of Light in 1997. All-seater requirements dictated it. "It was an easy decision to leave Roker Park," he says. "There was no other option. We couldn't do those four stands, with houses yards away. The most seats we could have would have been 22,000 and the cost would have been impossible. "There was a backlash. I got abused. When I came up the A19, my driver had to ring the police to say I was coming into the city. The fans got one of these twin-prop planes, with 'MURRAY OUT' [a banner] and flew over the house.

"[Now] I get treated really special at Sunderland. Not all of them, but the vast majority of fans. They know I did my best. I didn't do it for money. You have to want to do this job. They [Sunderland fans] have had a taste of different now, and it's been a bit of a contrast." The "different", he argues, came when the club eventually drifted under Ellis Short, who bought out Drumaville in 2008. Short sold to Stewart Donald and Charlie Methven in 2018, with the club now in the far more popular hands of Kyril Louis-Dreyfus, the French businessman, and the Uruguayan Juan Sartori.

Murray does, though, worry about the direction of the game. "The Premier League was driven by greed," he says. "It's money. It's not just about

'I received my first Sunderland shirt when I was eight. I felt ten feet tall'

'the Glazers' [as money-driven owners]. It's been going on for a while. It was blatant what happened. It was a power money grab by five clubs [the then 'big five' of Arsenal, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur]. They just then had the luck of the advent of Sky. It was technology that made them."

He looks at the nation states coming into the Premier League. "Sportswashing is a huge concern," he adds. "Where is it going to end up? Certain clubs have a fantastic tradition and history. Look at the pedigree of Newcastle [now under Saudi ownership]. It is capable of being damaged by the new owners." Newcastle fans would disagree, of course. "I feel sad that people like me [local owners, fans] aren't now going to have the opportunity I had in life," he says. "It would be wonderful if every club had a Steve Gibson [of Middlesbrough]. Steve's a great lad, he gets it, and he's very, very generous.

"I never bankrolled the club like Steve does or Jack Walker did [at Blackburn Rovers]. I've been very generous but I've never done the things they've done. I didn't have it [the huge wealth] and I didn't have the inclination."

He looks at the structure of the national game and says: "I worry about the pyramid enormously." He looks at the parachute money that a relegated club such as Southampton have, snapping up the Sunderland striker Ross Stewart, who has been sidelined with an injury. "We've just been paid £8 million for a player who hasn't been playing for six months," Murray says with a sigh, bemused.

Murray has another meeting, more foundation work, using the power of Sunderland to change lives: "It's a special club."

● I'd Do It All Again *by Sir Bob Murray with Lance Hardy and Ian Preece is published by Vision Sports Publishing at £20.* *www.foundationoflight.co.uk*

thegame

Premier League

		Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▶ 1 Manchester City	5	2	0	0	6	1	3	0	0	8	2	11	15
▶ 2 Tottenham Hotspur	5	2	0	0	4	1	2	1	0	9	4	8	13
▶ 3 Liverpool	5	2	0	0	6	1	2	1	0	6	3	8	13
▲ 4 Arsenal	5	2	1	0	7	4	2	0	0	2	0	5	13
▲ 5 Brighton & Hove Albion	5	2	0	1	8	5	2	0	0	7	2	8	12
▼ 6 West Ham United	5	1	0	1	4	4	2	1	0	6	3	3	10
▲ 7 Aston Villa	5	2	0	0	7	1	1	0	2	4	9	1	9
▼ 8 Crystal Palace	5	1	0	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	7
▲ 9 Fulham	5	1	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	4	7	-5	7
▼ 10 Brentford	5	0	3	0	5	5	1	0	1	3	1	2	6
▲ 11 Newcastle United	5	2	0	1	7	3	0	0	2	1	4	1	6
▼ 12 Nottingham Forest	4	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	4	5	0	6
▼ 13 Manchester United	5	2	0	1	5	5	0	0	2	1	5	-4	6
▼ 14 Chelsea	5	1	1	1	4	2	0	1	1	1	3	0	5
▲ 15 Bournemouth	5	0	2	1	1	3	0	1	1	3	5	-4	3
▼ 16 Wolverhampton Wanderers	5	0	0	2	2	7	1	0	2	3	4	-6	3
▶ 17 Sheffield United	5	0	1	2	3	5	0	0	2	2	4	-4	1
▶ 18 Everton	5	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	1	2	6	-7	1
▲ 19 Burnley	3	0	0	3	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	-8	0
▼ 20 Luton Town	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	1	8	-8	0

Sky Bet Championship

		Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▶ 1 Preston North End	6	3	0	0	6	3	2	1	0	4	1	6	16
▲ 2 Leicester City	6	2	0	1	4	3	3	0	0	7	2	6	15
▼ 3 Ipswich Town	6	2	0	1	8	6	3	0	0	4	1	5	15
▲ 4 Norwich City	6	3	0	0	6	2	1	1	1	9	6	7	13
▲ 5 Hull City	6	1	2	0	6	4	2	0	1	4	3	3	11
▼ 6 Birmingham City	6	2	1	0	4	2	1	1	1	3	3	2	11
▲ 7 Sunderland	6	2	0	1	8	3	1	1	1	4	3	6	10
▲ 8 Blackburn Rovers	6	2	0	1	5	4	1	1	1	3	5	-1	10
▼ 9 Southampton	6	1	1	1	7	9	2	0	1	4	7	-5	10
▲ 10 Leeds United	6	0	3	0	3	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	9
▼ 11 Bristol City	6	0	2	1	1	3	2	1	0	4	2	0	9
▲ 12 Watford	6	2	1	1	6	1	0	1	1	3	4	4	8
▼ 13 West Bromwich Albion	6	2	0	1	8	6	0	2	1	2	3	1	8
▼ 14 Plymouth Argyle	6	2	0	1	7	3	0	1	2	2	4	2	7
▼ 15 Coventry City	6	1	2	0	6	3	0	2	1	3	4	2	7
▲ 16 Cardiff City	6	2	0	1	5	3	0	1	2	5	7	0	7
▲ 17 Huddersfield Town	6	1	0	2	2	5	1	1	1	4	5	-4	7
▼ 18 Millwall	6	1	0	2	1	4	1	1	1	3	4	-4	7
▼ 19 Stoke City	6	2	0	1	5	3	0	0	3	0	4	-2	6
▼ 20 Queens Park Rangers	6	0	0	2	1	4	2	0	2	5	7	-5	6
▼ 21 Rotherham United	6	1	1	1	5	5	0	0	3	2	8	-6	4
▶ 22 Swansea City	6	0	2	1	3	4	0	0	3	3	7	-5	2
▶ 23 Sheffield Wednesday	6	0	0	3	1	4	0	1	2	3	6	-6	1
▶ 24 Middlesbrough	6	0	1	2	1	4	0	0	3	3	9	-9	1

Sky Bet League One

		Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▲ 1 Exeter City	8	2	1	1	4	3	3	0	1	6	1	6	16
▲ 2 Port Vale	7	3	0	0	3	0	2	1	1	5	10	-2	16
▲ 3 Oxford United	7	2	0	1	4	3	3	0	1	8	4	5	15
▼ 4 Stevenage	8	1	3	0	5	3	3	0	1	6	3	5	15
▲ 5 Barnsley	7	2	0	2	11	6	2	1	0	5	1	9	13
▼ 6 Portsmouth	7	2	2	0	5	2	1	2	0	5	1	7	13
▼ 7 Bolton Wanderers	7	3	0	1	8	6	1	1	1	5	3	4	13
▲ 8 Wycombe Wanderers	7	2	1	1	5	5	2	0	1	3	4	-1	13
▼ 9 Lincoln City	7	2	1	0	7	1	1	2	1	4	6	4	12
▼ 10 Cambridge United	7	3	0	1	6	2	1	0	2	3	4	3	12
▶ 11 Derby County	7	1	1	2	4	5	2	0	1	8	4	3	10
▲ 12 Peterborough United	7	1	1	1	4	5	2	0	2	5	5	-1	10
▲ 13 Bristol Rovers	7	0	2	1	3	4	2	1	1	5	4	0	9
▼ 14 Blackpool	7	2	2	0	4	1	0	1	2	0	5	-2	9
▼ 15 Shrewsbury Town	7	2	0	2	3	4	1	0	2	1	4	-4	9
▶ 16 Leyton Orient	8	1	0	2	2	7	1	2	2	5	6	-6	8
▶ 17 Charlton Athletic	7	2	0	2	6	6	0	1	2	2	4	-2	7
▲ 18 Carlisle United	8	1	2	1	4	4	0	2	2	3	5	-2	7
▼ 19 Northampton Town	7	1	1	2	3	4	1	0	2	2	3	-2	7
▶ 20 *Wigan Athletic	7	2	0	1	4	4	2	1	1	8	4	4	5
▶ 21 †Reading	7	3	0	1	5	2	0	0	3	1	4	0	5
▶ 22 Burton Albion	7	0	1	2	1	5	0	1	3	1	6	-9	2
▲ 23 Cheltenham Town	7	0	0	3	0	6	0	1	3	0	3	-9	1
▼ 24 Fleetwood Town	7	0	0	3	0	6	0	1	3	3	7	-10	1

*deducted *8pts/†4pts for breaching league rules*

Sky Bet League Two

		Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
▶ 1 Gillingham	8	3	0	1	4	4	3	0	1	3	2	1	18
▶ 2 Notts County	8	3	0	0	8	4	2	2	1	7	7	4	17
▲ 3 Swindon Town	7	3	1	0	15	5	1	2	0	7	6	11	15
▲ 4 Wrexham	8	3	1	1	17	13	1	2	0	3	2	5	15
▼ 5 Mansfield Town	8	2	1	0	6	2	1	4	0	9	6	7	14
▲ 6 Crawley Town	8	4	0	1	10	5	0	2	1	4	10	-1	14
▼ 7 Crewe Alexandra	8	2	2	0	11	7	1	2	1	8	6	6	13
▲ 8 Accrington Stanley	8	3	1	1	10	6	1	0	2	3	5	2	13
▼ 9 Milton Keynes Dons	8	2	1	1	5	4	2	0	2	10	10	1	13
▼ 10 Barrow	7	1	1	0	3	2	2	2	1	5	4	2	12
▶ 11 AFC Wimbledon	8	0	3	1	5	6	2	2	0	7	2	4	11
▲ 12 Newport County	8	2	2	0	10	4	1	0	3	6	11	1	11
▲ 13 Stockport County	8	1	2	1	5	5	2	0	2	7	7	0	11
▼ 14 Walsall	8	2	1	0	4	2	1	1	3	7	11	-2	11
▼ 15 Grimsby Town	8	2	2	0	5	1	0	2	2	4	8	0	10
▼ 16 Morecambe	7	3	1	0	6	1	0	0	3	1	7	-1	10
▼ 17 Bradford City	8	2	2	0	5	3	0	2	2	1	5	-2	10
▲ 18 Colchester United	7	1	1	2	5	6	1	0	2	4	3	0	7
▼ 19 Salford City	8	0	1	3	3	7	2	0	2	6	6	-4	7
▲ 20 Harrogate Town	8	1	0	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	7	-4	7
▼ 21 Forest Green Rovers	8	0	0	5	3	13	2	1	0	3	1	-8	7
▲ 22 Doncaster Rovers	8	0	2	2	3	6	1	0	3	4	9	-8	5
▼ 23 Tranmere Rovers	8	1	0	3	7	7	0	0	4	3	8	-5	3
▼ 24 Sutton United	8	1	0	3	5	6	0	0	4	6	14	-9	3

BILL EDGAR'S DEEP DIVE INTO EUROPEAN TIES



Brighton become English club No 38 in Europe, Mohamed Salah closes on Harry Kane, and James Milner's record

Brighton & Hove Albion will become the 38th team to represent the English league in European competition — and they are the closest of those 38 to mainland Europe — when they face AEK Athens in the Europa League this week. That total includes a London XI, whose match against a Basel XI in the Fairs Cup in June 1955 was the first fixture played in any major European tournament, whether or not it involved an English team.

Liverpool lead the way among English clubs with 48 European seasons, including this one, with Manchester United two behind them (see chart, above right). This analysis takes account of the involvement of Welsh clubs only when they have qualified through English competitions, not via the Welsh Cup. Swansea City's 2013-14 Europa League campaign is the sole case.

The competition in England for European places has become more predictable nowadays as the same teams qualify year after year: the proportion of clubs competing in Europe in any given season who were also involved the previous year is rising. For example, 87.5 per cent of the clubs taking part in 2021-22 (seven out of eight) had also played in Europe in 2020-21. The overall figure across decades has been above 70 per cent in each decade this century, having been below 60 per cent in every decade previously, as the chart (far right) shows.

Manchester United recorded the longest unbroken run of seasons in European competition, with 27. Liverpool's sequence of 21 ended in 1985 but their domestic results would have extended that to 29 without Uefa's ban on English clubs. Ipswich Town just missed out on the following list, competing in Europe in nine out of ten seasons from 1973-74.

ENGLISH CLUBS IN EUROPE

Most seasons played in European football*

Liverpool (423)	48
Man United (411)	46
Arsenal (336)	38
Chelsea (292)	31
Tottenham (256)	29
Man City (189)	23
Leeds (149)	18
Everton (91)	17
Aston Villa (71)	16
Newcastle (122)	15

(Games played)
*Excludes when Swansea and other Welsh clubs qualified via Welsh Cup

Most consecutive seasons in Europe for English clubs

Man Utd 27 (the last was 2013-14)
Arsenal 25 (2020-21)
Liverpool 21 (1984-85)
Chelsea 19 (2015-16)
Man City 14 (2023-24)
Tottenham 13 (2022-23)
Liverpool 11 (2010-11)
Leeds 10 (1974-75)



Danny Welbeck celebrates during

GROWING CONTINUITY

Proportion of English clubs competing in European competition in any given season who also did so in the previous season

1980s (19 in 33)	58%
1990s (27 in 51)	53%
2000s (53 in 75)	71%
2010s (51 in 72)	71%
2020s (23 in 29)	79%

Results

Premier League

Aston Villa (0) **3** — **Crystal Palace** (0) **1**
Durán 87, Luiz 90+8 (pen), Bailey 90+11 — Édouard 47
40,809

Bournemouth (0) **0** — **Chelsea** (0) **0**
10,421

Everton (0) **0** — **Arsenal** (0) **1**
Trossard 69
39,217

Fulham (0) **1** — **Luton** (0) **0**
Vinícius 65
24,467

Man United (0) **1** — **Brighton** (1) **3**
Mejbri 73 — Welbeck 20, Gross 53, João Pedro 71
73,592

Newcastle (0) **1** — **Brentford** (0) **0**
Wilson 64 (pen)
51,670

Tottenham (0) **2** — **Sheffield Utd** (0) **1**
Richarlison 90+8, Kulusevski 90+10 — Hamer 73
61,706
Sent off: O McBurnie (Sheffield Utd) 90+14

West Ham (1) **1** — **Man City** (0) **3**
Ward-Prowse 36 — Doku 46, Silva 76, Haaland 86
62,475

Wolves (1) **1** — **Liverpool** (0) **3**
Hwang 7 — Gakpo 55, Robertson 85, Bueno 90+1 (og)

Sky Bet Championship

Blackburn (1) **2** — **Middlesbrough** (0) **1**
Szmodics 31, 49 — Crooks 55
16,348

Bristol City (0) **0** — **West Brom** (0) **0**
21,836

Cardiff (0) **2** — **Swansea** (0) **0**
Tanner 71, Ramsey 86 (pen)
28,648

Huddersfield (1) **2** — **Rotherham** (0) **0**
Koroma 18, Thomas 70
19,050

Millwall (0) **0** — **Leeds** (1) **3**
Piroe 15, 77, Rutter 81
17,909

Norwich (1) **1** — **Stoke** (0) **0**
Stacey 44
25,816

Preston (2) **2** — **Plymouth** (0) **1**
Holmes 1, Millar 25 — Hardie 61
17,542

QPR (1) **1** — **Sunderland** (1) **3**
Paal 12 — Clarke 45+8, Ballard 57, Ba 81
16,383
Sent off: J Colback (QPR) 21

Sheffield Wed (0) **0** — **Ipswich** (1) **1**
Chaplin 45
25,938

Watford (0) **2** — **Birmingham** (0) **0**
Rajovic 90+1, Andrews 90+6
18,932
Sent off: L Buchanan (Birmingham) 88

League One

Barnsley (1) **2** — **Burton Albion** (0) **0**
Cole 21, 68
11,533

Derby (0) **1** — **Portsmouth** (0) **1**
Collins 86 (pen) — Bishop 90+5
27,999

Exeter (0) **1** — **Cheltenham** (0) **0**
Watts 68
6,312

Fleetwood (0) **0** — **Oxford Utd** (2) **3**
Mills 16, Bodin 27, Edwards 60
3,744

Lincoln City (0) **1** — **Carlisle** (1) **1**
Hamilton 49 — Plange 19
8,514

Peterborough (1) **1** — **Leyton Orient** (1) **1**
Kyprianou 21 — Beckles 33
7,945

Port Vale (0) **1** — **Northampton** (0) **0**
Garrity 84
7,532

Reading (0) **2** — **Bolton** (1) **1**
Savage 77, Vickers 86 — Charles 20
13,155
Sent off: E Toal (Bolton) 90+4

Shrewsbury (0) **0** — **Bristol Rovers** (0) **2**
Marquis 73, Collins 90+1
6,070

Stevenage (1) **1** — **Charlton** (0) **1**
Reid 34 — Blackett-Taylor 90+2 (pen)
5,118

Wigan (0) **2** — **Cambridge U** (0) **1**
Humphrys 57, Aasgaard 62 — Okenabirhie 76 (pen)
10,078

Wycombe (1) **2** — **Blackpool** (0) **0**
Vokes 13, Hanlan 46
4,691

League Two

AFC Wimbledon (2) **2** — **Crewe** (0) **2**
Neufville 30, Tilley 38 — Tabiner 51, Nevitt 90+10
8,147

Accrington (1) **4** — **Sutton Utd** (0) **1**
Leigh 45+1 (pen), 57, Longelo 63, Pritchard 90+5 — Patrick 64
2,036

Bradford City (0) **1** — **Harrogate** (0) **1**
Walker 90+5 — Daly 78
17,283

Colchester (1) **1** — **Mansfield** (0) **1**
Taylor 30 — Keillor-Dunn 90
3,740

Crawley Town (0) **3** — **Tranmere** (1) **2**
Darcy 61, Tsaroulla 68, Lolos 90+6 — Jolley 21, Taylor 66
2,961

Forest Green (0) **1** — **Doncaster** (1) **2**
Moore-Taylor 84 — Biggins 35, Close 90+6

Gillingham (2) **2** — **Morecambe** (1) **1**
Lapslie 9, Mahoney 23 — Mellon 11
5,915
Sent off: M Mellon (Morecambe) 76

MK Dons (1) **1** — **Stockport** (2) **2**
Eisa 26 — Barry 17, Powell 45+2
7,085

Newport Co (1) **1** — **Barrow** (0) **1**
McLoughlin 40 — Campbell 69 (pen)
3,539
Sent off: R Delaney (Newport Co) 43

Swindon (1) **2** — **Walsall** (0) **0**
Austin 2, Hepburn-Murphy 88
9,131
Sent off: T Knowles (Walsall) 66

Wrexham (2) **3** — **Grimsby** (0) **0**
Palmer 21, Boyle 31, Lee 79
10,116

Vanarama National League

AFC Fylde (0) **1** — **Eastleigh** (1) **2**
Rendall 77 (og) — Taylor 17, McCallum 50
Sent off: A Whitmore (AFC Fylde) 36

Aldershot (0) **1** — **Gateshead** (0) **1**
Stokes 59 — Francis 85
1,948

Bromley (2) **3** — **Oldham** (0) **0**
Passley 27, Woods 41, Whitely 66
2,571

Ebbsfleet (0) **0** — **Chesterfield** (0) **1**
Dobra 81
2,063
Sent off: M Jacobs (Chesterfield) 90+2

Halifax Town (0) **0** — **Dorking** (1) **1**
Craig 34



thegame

ASH DONELON/GETTY IMAGES



Saturday's victory against Manchester United for Brighton, who will make their debut in European competition on Thursday

For the first time since 2015-16 there will be as many as eight English clubs in European competition this season: Manchester City, Arsenal, Manchester United and Newcastle United in the Champions League, Liverpool, Brighton and West Ham United in the Europa League and Aston Villa in the Europa Conference League.

The record of nine teams has occurred twice: the quota was bumped up in 2002-03 when Fulham qualified for the Uefa Cup via the Intertoto Cup and Ipswich did so through their fair play ranking; in 2008-09 Villa took the Intertoto route and Manchester City won a fair play place.

England were not represented at all from 1985 to 1990 after Uefa banned English clubs after the Heysel Stadium disaster in 1985.

England had only two clubs in action in 1990-91 and needed to be patient as its coefficient — hit by the five-year absence from European competition — gradually built up during the 1990s and allowed for more entrants. The contingent rose to four clubs in 1991-92, six in 1994-95, seven in 1997-98 and eight in 1998-99.

Most English clubs in Europe in one season

9
2002-03: Champions League: Arsenal, Man Utd, Newcastle, Liverpool (moved to Uefa Cup mid-season after finishing third in group); Uefa Cup: Chelsea, Ipswich, Blackburn, Leeds, Fulham
2008-09: Champions League: Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Man Utd; Uefa Cup: Everton, Portsmouth, Aston Villa, Tottenham, Man City

8
1970-71, 1998-99, 2001-02, 2003-04, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2011-12, 2015-16, 2023-24

In 2004-05 there was the unfamiliar sight in Europe of Millwall (FA Cup runners-up) and Middlesbrough (League Cup winners), both continental debutants.

In 2011-12 the English entrants included Stoke City (FA Cup runners-up), Birmingham City (League Cup winners) and Fulham (fair play route) and two seasons later Wigan Athletic (FA Cup winners) and Swansea (League Cup winners) took part.

Unlikely pairings/trios in European competition

2004-05 Millwall, Middlesbrough
2011-12 Birmingham, Stoke, Fulham
2013-14 Swansea, Wigan

The highest attendance for a match featuring an English club was 136,505 for Leeds United's European Cup semi-final against Celtic at Hampden Park in April 1970 — only 4,500 of whom were said to be supporting Leeds. In fact the crowd for this fixture, which was moved from Celtic Park because of the huge demand for tickets, was the largest for any match in European club competition.

West Ham helped to draw what remains the largest crowd in England, when 97,974 saw them win the 1965 Cup Winners' Cup final at Wembley.

Harry Kane left Tottenham Hotspur in the summer having established himself as the top European goalscorer for English clubs but Mohamed Salah, three behind, will hope to catch him.

Players with most goals in Europe for English clubs

Harry Kane, Tottenham, 45
Thierry Henry, Arsenal, 42
Sergio Agüero, Man City, 42
Mohamed Salah, Chelsea, Liverpool, 42
Steven Gerrard, Liverpool, 41
Wayne Rooney, Man Utd, Everton, 40
Ruud van Nistelrooy, Man Utd, 38
Didier Drogba, Chelsea, 36
Olivier Giroud, Arsenal, Chelsea, 33
Alan Shearer, Blackburn, Newcastle, 30
Ryan Giggs, Man Utd, 30
Peter Lorimer, Leeds, 30

James Milner can become the first player to represent five English clubs in Europe: he has appeared for Newcastle, Villa, Manchester City and Liverpool and will expect to play for Brighton in the Europa League this season.

Players to have appeared in European competition with most English league clubs

Four
Jonathan Woodgate: Leeds, Newcastle, Tottenham, Stoke
Damien Duff: Blackburn, Chelsea, Newcastle, Fulham
Brad Friedel: Liverpool, Blackburn, Aston Villa, Tottenham
Peter Crouch: Liverpool, Portsmouth, Tottenham, Stoke
Nicolas Anelka: Arsenal, Man City, Bolton, Chelsea
Yossi Benayoun: West Ham, Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal
James Milner: Newcastle, Aston Villa, Man City, Liverpool

Most club trophies won

Spain 46
England 37
Italy 30
Germany 19
Netherlands 11
Portugal 7



Hartlepool (0) **0** **Woking** (0) **2**
4,214 — Korboa 47, 50

Kidderminster (0) **0** **Solihull Moors** (1) **1**
3,016 — Warburton 15

Maidenhead (0) **0** **Boreham Wood** (0) **1**
Marsh 52 (pen)

Oxford City (0) **0** **Dagenham & R** (0) **0**
876

Rochdale (2) **4** **Barnet** (1) **2**
Sinclair 23, 42; Gilmour 50; Henderson 89 — Kabamba 25, 67
2,568

Wealdstone (0) **0** **Altrincham** (0) **0**
1,302

York City (1) **3** **Southend** (0) **0**
Latty-Fairweather 26; Kouhyar 74, Siziba 76 — 4,679
Sent off: H Taylor (Southend) 74, G Scott-Morriss (Southend) 88

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chesterfield	9	7	1	1	23	15	8	22
Solihull Moors	9	5	4	0	16	8	8	19
Barnet	9	6	1	2	19	12	7	19
Bromley	9	4	3	2	14	10	4	15
Woking	9	4	3	2	13	9	4	15
Hartlepool	9	5	0	4	19	19	0	15
Rochdale	9	4	2	3	15	11	4	14
Gateshead	9	3	4	2	21	13	8	13
Halifax	9	3	4	2	8	7	1	13
Ebbsfleet	9	4	0	5	15	13	2	12
Wealdstone	9	3	3	3	10	12	-2	12
Altrincham	9	2	5	2	13	15	-2	11
Dagenham & R	9	3	2	4	10	12	-2	11
Aldershot	9	3	2	4	16	19	-3	11
Oxford City	9	2	4	3	16	14	2	10
Boreham Wood	9	2	4	3	9	12	-3	10
Maidenhead	9	2	4	3	7	10	-3	10
Eastleigh	9	2	4	3	9	15	-6	10
Dorking	9	2	3	4	8	14	-6	9
York	9	1	4	4	13	17	-4	7
Kidderminster	9	1	4	4	4	9	-5	7
Oldham	9	1	4	4	9	15	-6	7
AFC Fylde	9	1	2	6	14	23	-9	5
*Southend	9	4	1	4	15	12	3	3

** deducted 10pts for breaching league rules*

Cinch Scottish Premiership

Celtic (0) **3** **Dundee** (0) **0**
Turnbull 51 (pen); Furuhashi 63; O'Riley 67

Hearts (1) **2** **Aberdeen** (0) **0**
Oda 14, Boyce 64 — 18,626

Kilmarnock (0) **2** **Hibernian** (1) **2**
Vassell 61, Wright 79 — Dennis 8 (og); Vente 59
6,277

Motherwell (0) **0** **St Mirren** (0) **1**
5,653 — Tanser 55

Ross County (0) **1** **Livingston** (0) **1**
Murray 59 — Anderson 72
3,160

St Johnstone (0) **0** **Rangers** (1) **2**
6,967 — Pereira da Silva 16; Matondo 79

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic	5	4	1	0	11	3	8	13
St Mirren	5	3	2	0	9	6	3	11
Motherwell	5	3	1	1	6	4	2	10
Rangers	5	3	0	2	8	2	6	9
Hearts	5	2	1	2	4	2	2	7
Ross County	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
Livingston	5	1	3	1	5	8	-3	6
Kilmarnock	5	1	2	2	4	5	-1	5
Dundee	5	1	2	2	5	8	-3	5
Hibernian	5	1	1	3	9	10	-1	4
Aberdeen	5	0	2	3	3	9	-6	2
St Johnstone	5	0	2	3	2	8	-6	2

Cinch Championship

Arbroath (2) **4** **Airdrieonians** (0) **0**
McKenna 27; Hylton 35, Bird 88; McIntosh 90+1 — 1,708
Sent off: R Little (Arbroath) 38, L McStravick (Airdrieonians) 55

Dundee Utd (1) **1** **Morton** (0) **1**
Moult 19 — Muirhead 58
7,075
Sent off: M Cudjoe (Dundee Utd) 63

Queen's Park (0) **0** **Dunfermline** (0) **2**
1,968 — McCann 51, 67

Raith Rovers (0) **1** **Inverness CT** (0) **0**
Gullan 87 — 2,846

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Raith Rovers	5	4	1	0	10	6	4	13
Dundee Utd	5	3	2	0	11	2	9	11
Partick Thistle	5	3	1	1	14	6	8	10
Arbroath	6	3	0	3	10	8	2	9
Queen's Park	6	3	0	3	8	10	-2	9
Dunfermline	5	2	2	1	6	4	2	8
Airdrieonians	5	2	0	3	5	10	-5	6
Morton	5	1	1	3	7	12	-5	4
Ayr Utd	5	1	0	4	3	12	-9	3
Inverness CT	5	0	1	4	3	7	-4	1

League One Annan 3 Stirling Albion 0; Cove 2 Kelty 2; Falkirk 1 Queen of South 0; Hamilton 2 Alloa 1; Montrose 5 Edinburgh 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Falkirk	6	5	1	0	15	3	12	16
Hamilton	6	5	1	0	11	3	8	16
Stirling Albion	6	3	1	2	5	8	-3	10
Queen of South	6	3	0	3	12	11	1	9
Montrose	6	3	0	3	11	11	0	9
Kelty Hearts	6	2	2	2	7	7	0	8
Annan Athletic	6	2	1	3	9	12	-3	7
Alloa Athletic	6	2	0	4	8	12	-4	6
Cove Rangers	6	1	2	3	8	8	0	5
Edinburgh City	6	0	0	6	5	16	-11	0

League Two East Fife 2 Clyde 0; Elgin 2 Dumbarton 0; Forfar 2 The Spartans 2; Peterhead 2 Bonnyrigg Rose 1; Stenhousemuir 5 Stranraer 0.

French Ligue 1 Clermont 0 Nantes 1; Lens 0 Metz 1; Lorient 2 Monaco 2; Lyon 0 Le Havre 0; Marseille 0 Toulouse 0; Reims 1 Brest 2; Rennes 2 Lille 2; Strasbourg 2 Montpellier 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Monaco	5	3	2	0	15	7	8	11
Brest	5	3	1	1	7	6	1	10
Nice	5	2	3	0	7	4	3	9
Marseille	5	2	3	0	7	4	3	9
PSG	5	2	2	1	10	6	4	8
Lille	5	2	2	1	7	7	0	8
Metz	5	2	2	1	7	9	-2	8
Rennes	5	1	4	0	10	6	4	7
Reims	5	2	1	2	9	7	2	7
Strasbourg	5	2	1	2	6	8	-2	7
Le Havre	5	1	3	1	8	6	2	6
Lorient	5	1	3	1	7	7	0	6
Toulouse	5	1	3	1	5	6	-1	6
Montpellier	5	1	2	2	9	9	0	5
Nantes	5	1	2	2	6	8	-2	5
Lyon	5	0	2	3	3	10	-7	2
Clermont	5	0	1	4	4	10	-6	1
Lens	5	0	1	4	4	11	-7	1

Italian Serie A Cagliari 0 Udinese 0; Fiorentina 3 Atalanta 2; Frosinone 4 Sassuolo 2; Genoa 2 Napoli 2; Inter Milan 5 AC Milan 1; Juventus 3 Lazio 1; Monza 1 Lecce 1; Roma 7 Empoli 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Inter Milan	4	4	0	0	13	1	12	12
Juventus	4	3	1	0	9	2	7	10
AC Milan	4	3	0	1	9	7	2	9
Lecce	4	2	2	0	7	4	3	8
Napoli	4	2	1	1	8	5	3	7
Frosinone	4	2	1	1	7	6	1	7
Fiorentina	4	2	1	1	9	9	0	7
Verona	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6
Atalanta	4	2	0	2	8	5	3	6
Bologna	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
Torino	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2	4
Roma	4	1	1	2	11	6	5	4
Genoa	4	1	1	2	4	7	-3	4
Monza	4	1	1	2	3	6	-3	4
Lazio	4	1	0	3	4	7	-3	3
Udinese	4	0	3	1	1	4	-3	3
Sassuolo	4	1	0	3	5	9	-4	3
Salernitana	3	0	2	1	3	5	-2	2
Cagliari	4	0	2	2	1	4	-3	2
Empoli	4	0	0	4	0	12	-12	0

German Bundesliga Bochum 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 1; Cologne 1 Hoffenheim 3; Darmstadt 3 Borussia Mönchengladbach 3; Freiburg 2 Borussia Dortmund 4; Heidenheim 4 Werder Bremen 2; Mainz 1 Stuttgart 3; RB Leipzig 3 Augsburg 0; Wolfsburg 2 Union Berlin 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
B Leverkusen	4	3	1	0	13	5	8	10
Bayern Munich	4	3	1	0	11	4	7	10
RB Leipzig	4	3	0	1	13	4	9	9
Stuttgart	4	3	0	1	14	6	8	9
Hoffenheim	4	3	0	1	10	6	4	9
Wolfsburg	4	3	0	1	7	5	2	9
B Dortmund	4	2	2	0	8	5	3	8
Union Berlin	4	2	0	2	9	7	2	6
E Frankfurt	4	1	3	0	4	3	1	6
Freiburg	4	2	0	2	5	10	-5	6
Heidenheim	4	1	1	2	8	9	-1	4
Werder Bremen	4	1	0	3	6	9	-3	3
Bochum	4	0	3	1	4	9	-5	3
B M'gladbach	4	0	2	2	8	12	-4	2
Augsburg	4	0	2	2	7	12	-5	2
Cologne	4	0	1	3	3	7	-4	1
Darmstadt	4	0	1	3	5	13	-8	1
Mainz	4	0	1	3	3	12	-9	1

Spanish La Liga Athletic Bilbao 3 Cádiz 0; Barcelona 5 Real Betis 0; Celta Vigo 0 Mallorca 1; Getafe 3 Osasuna 2; Real Madrid 2 Real Sociedad 1; Sevilla 1 Las Palmas 0; Valencia 3 Atlético Madrid 0; Villarreal 2 Almería 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Madrid	5	5	0	0	10	3	7	15
Barcelona	5	4	1	0	13	4	9	13
Athletic Bilbao	5	3	1	1	9	4	5	10
Girona	4	3	1	0	7	2	5	10
Valencia	5	3	0	2	7	4	3	9
Rayo Vallecano	5	3	0	2	6	8	-2	9
Atlético Madrid	4	2	1	1	10	4	6	7
Cádiz	5	2	1	2	5	7	-2	7
Getafe	5	2	1	2	5	7	-2	7
Real Betis	5	2	1	2	5	10	-5	7
Real Sociedad	5	1	3	1	8	7	1	6
Osasuna	5	2	0	3	7	8	-1	6
Villarreal	5	2	0	3	8	10	-2	6
Alavés	5	2	0	3	5	7	-2	6
Mallorca	5	1	2	2	4	5	-1	5
Celta Vigo	5	1	1	3	4	7	-3	4
Sevilla	4	1	0	3	6	8	-2	3
Granada	4	1	0	3	7	12	-5	3
Las Palmas	5	0	2	3	1	4	-3	2
Almería	5	0	1	4	5	11	-6	1

Fixtures

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

Today

Premier League Nottm Forest v Burnley.

Tomorrow

Champions League: Group E (8.0): Feyenoord v Celtic; Lazio v Atletico Madrid. **Group F** AC Milan v Newcastle (5.45); PSG v Borussia Dortmund (8.0). **Group G** Man City v Red Star Belgrade (8.0); Young Boys v RB Leipzig (5.45). **Group H** (8.0): Barcelona v Antwerp; Shakhtar Donetsk v Porto.

Sky Bet Championship Bristol City v Plymouth; Cardiff v Coventry; Preston v Birmingham; QPR v Swansea; Sheff Wed v Middlesbrough (8.0); Southampton v Ipswich. **League One** Barnsley v Portsmouth; Peterborough v Cheltenham; Port Vale v Burton Albion.

Papa John's EFL Trophy (7.0 unless stated): Morecambe v Liverpool U-21; Wigan v Leicester U-21; Derby v Lincoln; Doncaster v Everton U-21; Shrewsbury v Brighton U-21; Sutton Utd v Aston Villa U-21 (7.45); Wycombe v Crystal Palace U-21; Colchester v Tottenham U-21 (7.30); Leyton Orient v Fulham U-21; Oxford Utd v MK Dons; Exeter v Reading; Bristol Rovers v West Ham U-21 (7.45).

Wednesday

Champions League: Group A Bayern Munich v Man Utd (8.0); Galatasaray v Copenhagen (5.45). **Group B** (8.0): Arsenal v PSV Eindhoven; Sevilla v Lens. **Group C** Braga v Napoli (8.0); Real Madrid v Union Berlin (5.45). **Group D** (8.0): Benfica v Red Bull Salzburg; Real Sociedad v Inter Milan.

Sky Bet Championship Blackburn v Sunderland; Huddersfield v Stoke; Hull v Leeds; Millwall v Rotherham; Norwich v Leicester (8.0); Watford v West Brom.

Thursday

Europa League (5.45 unless stated): **Group A** (8.0): Olympiacos v Freiburg; West Ham v Backa Topola. **Group B** (8.0): Ajax v Marseille; Brighton v AEK Athens. **Group C** (8.0): Rangers v Real Betis; Sparta Prague v Aris Limassol. **Group D** (8.0): Atalanta v Rakow Czestochowa; Sturm Graz v Sporting. **Group E** LASK v Liverpool; Union Saint Gilloise v Toulouse. **Group F** Panathinaikos v Villarreal; Rennes v Maccabi Haifa. **Group G** Servette v Slavia Prague; Sheriff v Roma. **Group H** Bayer Leverkusen v Hacken (5.45); Qarabag v Molde.

Europa Conference League (5.45): **Group E** Legia Warsaw v Aston Villa. **Group G** Eintracht Frankfurt v Aberdeen.

Friday

Sky Bet Championship Birmingham v QPR (8.0)

Cinch Championship Queen's Park v Ayr.

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Saturday

Premier League Brentford v Everton (5.30); Burnley v Man Utd (8.0); Crystal Palace v Fulham; Luton v Wolves; Man City v Nottm Forest.

Sky Bet Championship Ipswich v Blackburn; Leeds v Watford; Leicester v Bristol City; Middlesbrough v Southampton; Plymouth v Norwich; Rotherham v Preston; Swansea v Sheff Wed; West Brom v Millwall. **League One** Blackpool v Reading; Bolton v Peterborough; Bristol Rovers v Wigan; Burton v Fleetwood; Cambridge Utd v Port Vale; Carlisle v Derby; Charlton v Wycombe; Cheltenham v Stevenage; Leyton Orient v Shrewsbury; Northampton v Barnsley; Oxford Utd v Exeter; Portsmouth v Lincoln. **League Two** Crewe v Colchester; Doncaster v Gillingham; Grimsby v Crawley; Harrogate v Salford; Mansfield v Barrow; Morecambe v Swindon; Newport Co v Bradford City; Notts Co v Forest Green; Stockport v Wrexham; Sutton Utd v MK Dons; Tranmere v Accrington; Walsall v AFC Wimbledon.

Cinch Premiership Dundee v Kilmarnock; Hibernian v St Johnstone; Livingston v Celtic (12.30); St Mirren v Hearts.

Cinch Championship Airdrieonians v Raith; Dunfermline v Morton; Inverness CT v Dundee Utd; Partick v Arbroath. **League One** Annan v Alloa; Edinburgh City v Cove; Kelty v Falkirk (5.30); Montrose v Stirling Albion; Queen of South v Hamilton. **League Two** Bonnyrigg v Stenhousemuir; Clyde v Elgin; Dumbarton v Peterhead; Spartans v East Fife; Stranraer v Forfar.

Sunday

Premier League (2.0 unless stated): Arsenal v Tottenham; Brighton v Bournemouth; Chelsea v Aston Villa; Liverpool v West Ham; Sheff Utd v Newcastle (4.30).

Sky Bet Championship Stoke v Hull (midday); Sunderland v Cardiff.

Cinch Premiership Aberdeen v Ross Co; Rangers v Motherwell.

POSTCARDS FROM THE PYRAMID

Kit Shepard and **Ian Whittell** on the biggest stories from the EFL each weekend

Savvy Ismaël could buck Watford trend

KIT SHEPARD

As tribulations such as managerial sackings and points deductions already leave their mark on this EFL season, Watford and Birmingham City offered a welcome reminder that football can supply happiness in antithetical forms.

The source of Watford's positivity was obvious, as two goals in second-half stoppage time on Saturday gave them a 2-0 victory — their first win since the opening day.

When Mileta Rajovic's header from a Yáser Asprilla cross opened the scoring at Vicarage Road, the home fans' raucous celebrations displayed the intense and transient version of joy. They experienced it again when Ryan Andrews's deflected strike sealed the win five minutes later.

"I'm just pleased that everyone got their reward for their patience," Valérien Ismaël, the Watford head coach, said. "We deserved to take more points from many games before. At some points you get frustrated, but this is the beauty of the game."

Ismaël also discussed how the win will aid his team's development, but outlining a long-term vision as the Watford head coach is always tricky. When he arrived in May, Ismaël became the club's 19th permanent managerial appointment since Gino Pozzo took over in 2012, with the Italian owner rattling through three managers over the 2022-23 campaign.

The savvy Ismaël has more than ten years' head-coaching experience and could be the man who bucks the trend of sackings, but that will have to be seen to be believed. Regardless, he can savour this result for now.

Birmingham's route to satisfaction was more philosophical. They had qualms over Keith Stroud's refereeing, with two of their seven bookings resulting in the sending-off of Lee Buchanan before Rajovic's goal. They will also rue the double save of Daniel Bachmann to deny Scott Hogan, and Jay Stansfield striking a post. But there are many reasons for cheer.

This was their first league loss this season and they remain in the top six. After seven straight seasons finishing between 17th and 20th in the Championship, there are tentative signs of a play-off push.

"We've come to a difficult place, there is an exceptional squad here, and limited them to nothing," John Eustace, the Birmingham head coach, said of his team's performance.

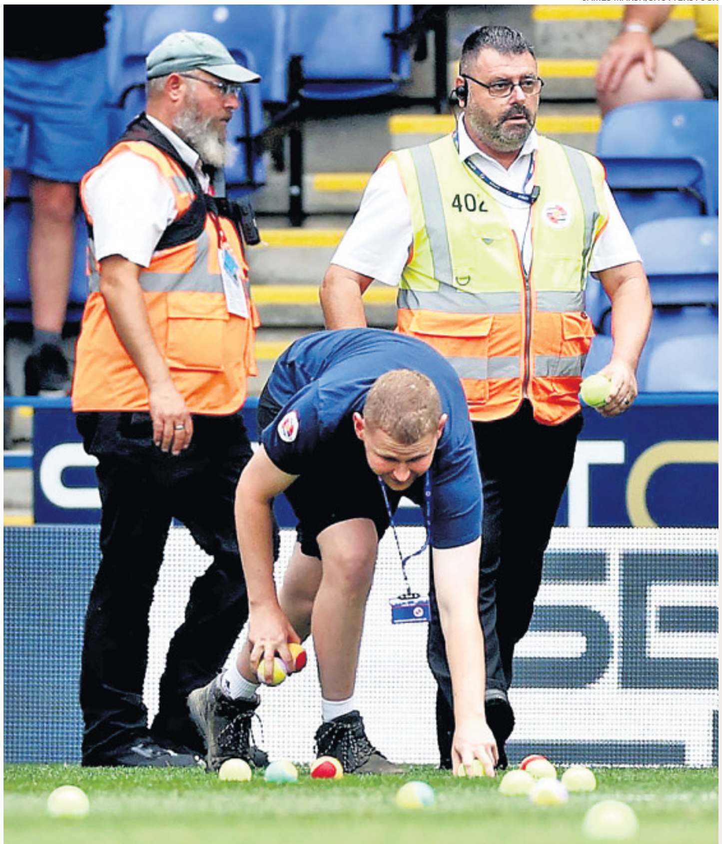
Birmingham's ownership situation surely enhances Eustace's optimism. After the irresponsible spending and points deductions under the Hong Kong-registered Birmingham Sports Holdings Ltd, as well as the jailing of the previous owner Carson Yeung for money laundering in 2014, Knighthead Capital Management LLC has restored faith since acquiring control last July through its affiliate, Shelby Companies Ltd (SCL).

"We have genuine hope for the future," Neil Cottrell, the vice-chairman of the fan-led Blues Trust, said. "That's something we haven't had for the best part of a decade." Cottrell cites Knighthead rescuing Hertz, the car rental company, from bankruptcy. He welcomes the arrival of the new chief executive, Garry Cook, who held the same role at Manchester City at the start of their Abu Dhabi era. And he knows that having Tom Brady, the NFL legend, as a minority owner will provide a fashionable guise if nothing else.

A revolution has started in the Second City. As Watford fans enjoyed the result, the away faithful could take comfort in spite of it.

"You can tell that these guys are serious," Cottrell said of SCL. "Even when we lose games, the general direction is very much on the up."

JAMES MARSH/SHUTTERSTOCK



Selles backs protesters

A bizarre protest, involving tennis balls thrown on to the pitch, left, delayed Reading's home game against Bolton Wanderers for three minutes in the first half on Saturday, but the troubled hosts went on to collect a vital win in League One.

Reading were docked a point by the EFL in August and lost three more last week for not placing wages into a bank account, leading to fans protesting against the owner, Dai Yongge.

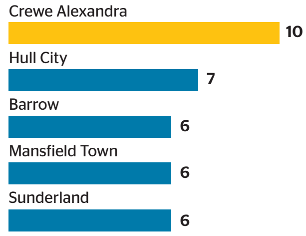
"I completely agree with the protest," Rubén Selles, the Reading manager, said. "We have to be better in that aspect to stop losing points because we don't do the things we need to as a football club. We need to do our job.

"We are the first one that feels the club needs to do better in terms of finances. We completely understand and have the same feeling."

Having conceded just after the protest, goals in the final 13 minutes from Charlie Savage — son of Robbie — and Caylon Vickers secured a win that took Reading to five points.

THE COMEBACK CREWE

Crewe Alexandra, who have come back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 four times this season, have taken the most points from losing positions in the EFL



Warnock set to step down

Neil Warnock, the Huddersfield Town manager, is expected to announce that he is leaving the club at a press conference today, despite leading his team to a second win in a row.

The 2-0 victory over Rotherham United on Saturday afternoon nudged Huddersfield away from the relegation zone and maintained the strong job that the 74-year-old started last season, when he led the club to Championship safety after being appointed in February.

It is expected that Wednesday's home match against Stoke City will be his last in charge, with an overseas manager already lined up as his successor.

"I'm ever so proud of what we've achieved here. We have a press conference on Monday at one o'clock," Warnock said after the victory over Rotherham.

"It [social media] said it was my last game, so that's wrong, isn't it? I've enjoyed every minute and am not prepared to talk about it tonight."

Huddersfield, whom Warnock guided to promotion into the second tier way back in 1995, were second bottom in the Championship when he returned this year. The veteran duly inspired a brilliant revival, as the Yorkshire club won six of their final nine matches of the campaign to finish nine points clear of the relegation zone.

Although his second stint at the club may be nearly complete, the uptick in form over the past two games suggests that he is still making a positive difference.

"Of course I will be here [on Wednesday]," Warnock said. "I want to win, I want to beat Stoke. I'm just enjoying my football, the crowds and the atmosphere, and when I see the lads put in a performance like that."



Warnock led Huddersfield to successive victories

Browne rests after Mbappé

The Preston North End captain Alan Browne capped a week to remember by helping his team return to the top of the Championship on Saturday with a 2-1 win over Plymouth Argyle, though the Ireland midfielder survived for only one half.

Browne was substituted at half-time in what may have been an act of mercy given the 164 minutes he had played the previous week, as his national team lost Euro qualifiers to France and Holland.

"He's fine," Ryan Lowe, the Preston manager, said. "He'd just been to France and tried to mark [Kylian] Mbappé — the distance he covered!

"He then played against Holland and top midfielders and wingers. I just thought that he looked a bit tired. He was tired when he came back. He only came back and trained on Thursday.

"I've done the right thing because I could've lost him. He is obviously disappointed coming off. He sat behind us in the dugout and rallied the lads on like a captain does."

Preston's victory, their fifth in six league games this season, came against Lowe's previous employers Plymouth, who are managed by his former assistant Steven Schumacher.

Cheltenham not at races

Cheltenham Town maintained their unwanted status as the only team in the top four divisions of English football still searching for a first league goal of the season after a 1-0 defeat away to Exeter City.

Seven matches without a goal mean the manager, Wade Elliott, is facing inevitable questions about his future but he believes he can improve the miserable record.

"I am not stupid and I know it's about results," he said after Saturday's defeat. "Ultimately, it's a result-oriented business. The work we do day to day, you can see is really good. You can see the team is organised, they are working hard and together. There are lots of indicators that speak really well of the work we are doing, but the ultimate indicator is results and I get that there will come a point where you are going to be judged on that."

Exeter returned to the top of League One with the win. Of the table's top four, which also includes Port Vale, Oxford United and Stevenage, no team finished higher than 14th in the third tier last season.

Doncaster close win out

A late cross-cum-shot from Ben Close gave Doncaster Rovers their first victory of the season. They deserved their 2-1 victory away to Forest Green Rovers, according to their manager Grant McCann.

"I said to the lads when we left the hotel that this is the sixth Saturday since starting and we've not tasted the winning feeling, which is depressing when you have to go home without it," he said. "I'm hoping the lads can enjoy that because they've earned it."

FALSE START

Since beating Notts County 5-1 in their first game of the season, Sutton United have lost all seven league matches

	v Notts County	Past seven games
Goals	5	6
Goals conceded	1	19
Shots	6	22
Minutes leading	88	63
Points taken	3	0